



BWYC team wins big in Tampa

Bay-Waveland Yacht Club Team wins the 2002 Sunfish Championship.

Sports, Page 13A



The Toy Library and Technology Learning Center is making a difference for Hancock's kids.

Community, Page 1B

The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 111, NO. 22 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

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TWO SECTIONS, 26 PAGES

75 CENTS

Sunday March 17, 2002

St. Pat's Day Parade in the Pass at 2 today

At 2 p.m. today, Sunday, March 17th, the Krewe of Blarney's Halfast Walkin' Klub, the only walking parade on the Coast, will marshal at the "Palace in the Pass" at War Memorial Park on Scenic Drive. Several toasting stops will be made along the way.

Two of the significant stops are at City Hall where more than 50 of the Special Olympics members will be stationed at the reviewing stands.

The other stop is at the Miramar Nursing Home. The Walkin' Struttin' Klans, consisting of VIPs, bands, cloggers, jazz groups, Boy Scouts, etc. will be followed by Rooney's Dooneys, and for the first time Dawley's n'Tiques Old Antiquated vehicles of Yesteryear. Everyone in Green can join in the parading.

Grand marshal for this year's parade is Long Beach Mayor Robert Bass. The Colleen is Melissa Denise Russell.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Editorial Page 4A
Obituaries Page 8A
Sports Pages 12-13A
Classified Pages 9-11B

TIDES

DAY	HIGH	LOW
Mon. 2:38 a.	1:13 a.	
Tues. 3:30 p.	2:26 a.	
Wed. 4:29 p.	3:34 a.	
Thurs. 5:36 p.	4:39 a.	
Fri. 6:45 p.	5:41 a.	
Sat. 7:57 p.	6:40 a.	

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Gone Fishin'



Officers of the Bay St. Louis and Waveland police departments look on Thursday as Waveland-resident Thomas Callihan's Camaro is pulled from the water near the Cedar Point Boat Launch in Bay St. Louis. The car was apparently found before its owners knew it was missing.

Why did the Camaro take a dip at Cedar Point?

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Waveland police are trying to determine how a suped-up Chevy Camaro landed in the water at the edge of the Cedar Point Boat Launch.

Police Chief James Varnell said his department was alerted by the Bay St. Louis Police Department about 8:21 a.m. Thursday.

Asst. Bay St. Louis Police Chief Dave Stepro said someone walking along the seawall spotted the partially submerged convertible in the water at the end of the boat launch, and called police.



Bay police dispatched several units to the scene, along with a fire rescue vehicle, Stepro said. He said Patrolman Johnny Wallace dove into the water and determined there was no body inside the vehicle. A tow truck from Moss Motors raised the vehicle and towed it off, Stepro said.

Varnell said the vehicle was a 1995 Chevy Z28 with a Mississippi tag. Police traced the tag number on the vehicle to Thomas Callihan, who lives at 1120 Waveland Avenue.

Varnell said police contacted Zella Callihan at

DIP--PAGE 10A

FBI probes Southern Regional Wastewater

Scope, focus of investigation still uncertain

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Rumors that raised questions about the past auditing practices at the Southern Regional Wastewater Management District - headquartered in Waveland - have circulated since last summer. On Friday, board attorney Ronnie Artigues confirmed that the FBI is indeed conducting an investigation into the internal practices of the district and has reviewed records at the plant. Artigues said he knew no other details about the investigation or the nature of their inquiry.

Board member and Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre said on Friday that he had not personally been contacted regarding an investigation, but was aware that the FBI had been at the plant reviewing documents, though he did not know the nature of the investigation.

"The documents requested are all public record and will be supplied," Favre said.

Plant director Dr. Bill Glover said on Friday that he had seen agents at the plant but had no other comment on the investigation.

In June of last year, the auditing firm of Moore and Powell delivered an audit draft for the years ending in

PROBE--PAGE 10A

Maintenance director and administrator both resign

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

In a surprise move Southern Regional Director of Maintenance and Operations Stu Craib and District Administrator Dr. Bill Glover handed in their resignations to board members at a special meeting called late Friday afternoon.

Craib gave no notice at all, and, in fact, was on his way back to his native New Zealand as board members learned of his decision. Glover turned in a resignation effective two weeks from Friday. He declined comment on his decision.

The content of the letters, read in executive session, was not revealed, but did contain statements that led board members to agree to contact the Department of Environmental Quality to schedule a meeting, tentatively for next Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Hancock County Court House, to discuss

RESIGNS--PAGE 10A

Pass seafood plant owners plan to expand operations

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

While Pass Christian is buzzing about Wal-Mart possibly coming to town, a seasoned business is quietly making plans to expand.

At its March 5 meeting, the Board of Alderman approved a "Special Use District" designation for Crystal Seas Seafood on W. North Street.

Joe Jenkins, who owns the business with his wife, Phyllis,

first appeared before the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment on Feb. 28.

He explained Crystal Seas Seafood, located at 166 W. North Street, primarily serves as an oyster-shucking plant, employing up to 108 people at the height of the season. Some shrimp are also processed, Jenkins said. The oysters are purchased by the sack from fisherman coming into the

PLANT--PAGE 10A



Jazz In the Pass-founder Jenny Lou Mintz, left, and Pass Christian Mayor Billy McDonald accept a painting of Big Boy the cat from artist Geri Derdes, who also wrote and illustrated a book about the famous freed-feline. Proceeds from the book and raffle tickets for the painting will benefit Jazz in the Pass, which takes place May 11. Both the books and tickets are available at the Pass Chamber of Commerce.

Solid Waste Authority eyes recycling bids

BY BENNIE
SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

The Hancock County Solid Waste Authority opened bids for the county recycling contract at Tuesday's meeting, with only one of the eight companies expected to bid on the contract returning a bid, the current contract holder Mississippi Resorsys, Inc. Four of the companies did not respond to the bidding process and three others declined to bid.

MS Resorsys, Inc. bid on various contract options

with unit prices per pickup ranging from \$2.18 to \$2.22 per household. The company currently charges from \$1.65 to \$1.85 per pickup. The company also put in a bid for education of the public as to the necessity for recycling. The bid cost of initial education was \$2,000 and for continuing education the bid cost was \$500.

The board took the bid under advisement. Before the contract will be awarded a representative from both the company and the authority will conduct a house count.

MS Resorsys has handled the recycling since 1996 and currently do weekly pickups. Under the new contract, if accepted, the company would pickup every other week. Currently, recycling costs the county about \$16,000 a month or, \$192,000 a year.

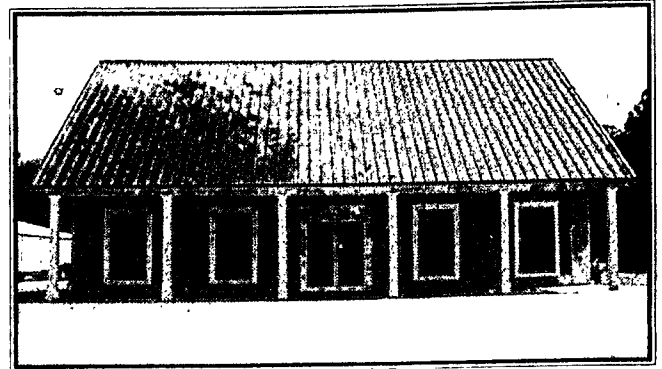
The board passed a motion to accept the proposed 2002/2003 budget for \$1,766,415. Revenues are projected to increase by \$93,600.

The budget proposes to spend less on recycling and more on recycling bins, to

increase the travel and seminar budget and the educational budget from zero to \$10,000 each.

In other business: The board passed a motion that will allow Philip Thigpen to proceed with steps for acquiring a license for a Class II dump site on a tract of land on Indian Ridge Rd. off Hwy. 607. The site is presently being used for a mining operation. A public hearing was held to receive comments on the request at 7 p.m. February 13. No one showed up and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Tony Rowe of Gulfport was very pleased with the great deal he received from the good guys at Rick Bounds Auto Sales!

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Winners are, front row from left, Kindergarten, Louis Nix, first place; Hannah Stealey, second; Ross Wicklund, third; and first grade, Haley Holder, first place; Conner Entriken, second; and Chase Crenshaw, third; middle row, second grade, Trey Vernaci, first place; Chase Bosarge, second; Abigail Arcement, third; and third grade, Erica Watkins, first place; Holly Taylor, second; and Blakeney McKnight, third; back row, fourth and fifth grade, Camron Ladner, first place; Brad Hill, second; and Athena Palode, third; at top, Superintendent Mike Ladner. Not pictured are K-3 group, Ms. Giampaolo's class, first place; Ms. Segar's class, second; Ms. Longo's class, third; and 4-8 group, Ms. Lafontaine's class, first place; Ms. Cores class second; Jenelle Macon and Brittney Doyle, third.

Hancock School District Reading Fair

Students in grades kindergarten through five at Charles B. Murphy Elementary, East Hancock Elementary, Gulfview Elementary, and Hancock North Central Elementary recently participated in the fourth annual Mississippi Reading Fair.

The fair allows students to read and create storyboards about their favorite books. The boards are required to contain such information as book title, author, publisher, publication date, setting, main characters, plot summary, conflict, resolution, pur-

pose, and tone/mood.

First, second, and third place winners in individual school competition took part in district competition Jan. 30. The first place winners from district advance to regional competition March 23 in Wiggins.

Train traffic halted next 5 days

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Beginning today, rail traffic on the CSX line between New Orleans and Flomaton, Ala., will be halted for five days.

CSX spokesperson Susan Keegan said more than 700 employees will spend the next five days making highway-rail grade improve-

ments at 14 crossings and repairing four bridges.

Eleven tie and rail crews will refurbish 19 miles of rail and replace 56,000 cross-ties, she said. Bridge teams will repair four bridges in isolated bayou areas.

Keegan said CSX worked in advance with rail customers and Amtrak so they

could adjust their schedules to work around the five-day stoppage.

She said work equipment and trains carrying ballast will still be using the tracks in various locations.

Keegan said by suspending operations, CSX can finish the work in five days rather than taking two months to make the repairs.

Fog on bridge triggers accidents

BY ED LEPOMA
Staff Writer

Three vehicles collided during dense fog early Friday morning in chain reaction accidents on the westbound lane of the Bay St. Louis bridge.

Bay St. Louis dispatched police units to the scene until the Mississippi Highway Patrol arrived. The MHP has jurisdiction over the bridge since it is

part of U.S. Hwy. 90.

Details gleaned from reports furnished by the MHP said a person driving a Chevy GEO lost control of his vehicle on the wet roadway, and the vehicle plowed into the concrete medium, which separates westbound and eastbound traffic.

A second vehicle slowed when approaching the scene, and was hit in the rear by a third vehicle,

according to reports.

Three people were transported to Hancock Medical Center, but the extent of their injuries was not known on Friday.

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Hope Haven welcomes new shelter manager

SPECIAL TO THE ECHO

Hope Haven shelter for abused and neglected children recently had an addition to its shelter staff. The non-profit organization hired Ken France as new shelter manager.

France was the director of "Center Circle" until it closed last winter.

"We are very excited to have someone of France's caliber and commitment join us," said Margie Toups, president of the Hope Haven board. This addition to our staff will increase the level of professional service we can provide to the children in our shelter.

Terry Latham served as both our director and shelter manager for almost six years and did a wonderful job, but Hope Haven is growing, and we must grow to meet the ever increasing needs of this community."

France has extensive experience in working with abused children in Brazil for 12 years and spent a year in India working with Mother Teresa.

Latham will continue as the organization's executive director. Valerie Edenfield, will now serve as program assistant and work with both the shelter and administrative staff.

Kenneth France was born in New Orleans and raised in Waveland. He attended St. Clare's and graduated from St. Stanislaus in 1982. He received his bachelor's in psychology at St. Edward's University in Austin Texas.

It was during college that France got involved in community service work.

During his free time he worked with homeless families, abused children and at-risk Hispanic youths in an outreach program he started with friends from the university.

After graduation, France returned to Waveland and began teaching at St. John High School in Gulfport, where he taught courses in social justice.

He became frustrated at just talking about social problems and not getting his hands dirty in the struggle for social justice. He accepted a teaching job in Sao Paulo, Brazil and spent nearly 11 years in Brazil.

He was immediately confronted by the hardship of life in Brazil and was especially moved by the plight of street children. In response to their needs, France founded two shelters for street children, as well as developing a health clinic, an adult literacy center in one of the largest slums in South America.

He spent nearly eight years running these programs and working with the children, directly on the streets, often sleeping in the plaza with the children so as to protect them from the death squads that kill an average of three children every day in Sao Paulo.

During his time in Brazil, France has served thousands of children and adolescents, providing such basic needs as food and shelter. His centers emphasized education, vocational development and self-discipline.

Children in the program had access to counselors,

therapists, drug rehabilitation and medical services. Nearly 90 percent of the children and adolescents who entered his residential centers never returned to street life.

France has traveled extensively throughout South America researching programs dealing with children and adolescents. He also spent time working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India.

While in India he worked in a center for homeless men and men who were found dying on the streets.

There he fed them, nursed them, and comforted them until they passed away.

The idea of these homes is that no one should die alone on the streets, but rather die with dignity, in a bed with clean sheets and someone by their sides.

Sometimes the patients recovered, but mostly they died, but with a founded smile on their face, embraced in serenity.

He spent his evenings working with street families, providing basic services. His weekends were spent working with lepers. France visited with Mother Teresa every morning and sometimes in the evening as well. From Mother Teresa learned the true meaning of service work.

France returned to the United States last year to work with the Center Circle, where he served as program manager and executive director.

In January he accepted the position of shelter manager at Hope Haven. He

says that he loves his work at Hope Haven. "In many ways it reminds me of my work in Brazil in that you have to deal with all aspects of the child - physical, educational and emotional."

France is also impressed with the strong community support that Hope Haven enjoys.

"Hope Haven is a physical statement of our community's commitment to serve the child and a reminder of the work that needs to be done."

France's primary goal is to build on the outstanding program already in place. He believes that all aspects of the program must exist to serve the needs of the whole child.

"They must understand that being placed at Hope Haven is not a form of punishment. Rather they need to feel from the moment they enter the door of the shelter, that the staff at Hope Haven cares about them."

France is married to Simone France and is the father of four. He and his wife, a Brazilian, worked together in Brazil with street children.

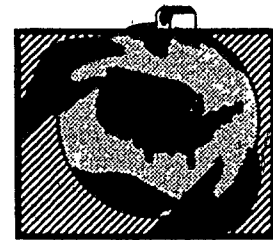
France is pleased to be back home and working with children in his own community. His future plans include returning to graduate school which was interrupted when he went to Brazil.

He is also working on a book on service work based on his experiences in Brazil and India.

He plans to be finished the work by the end of this summer.

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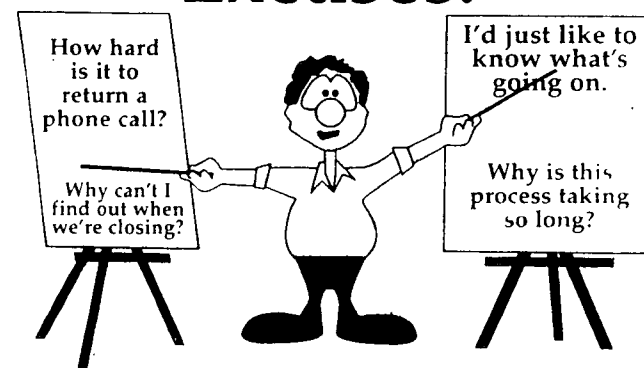
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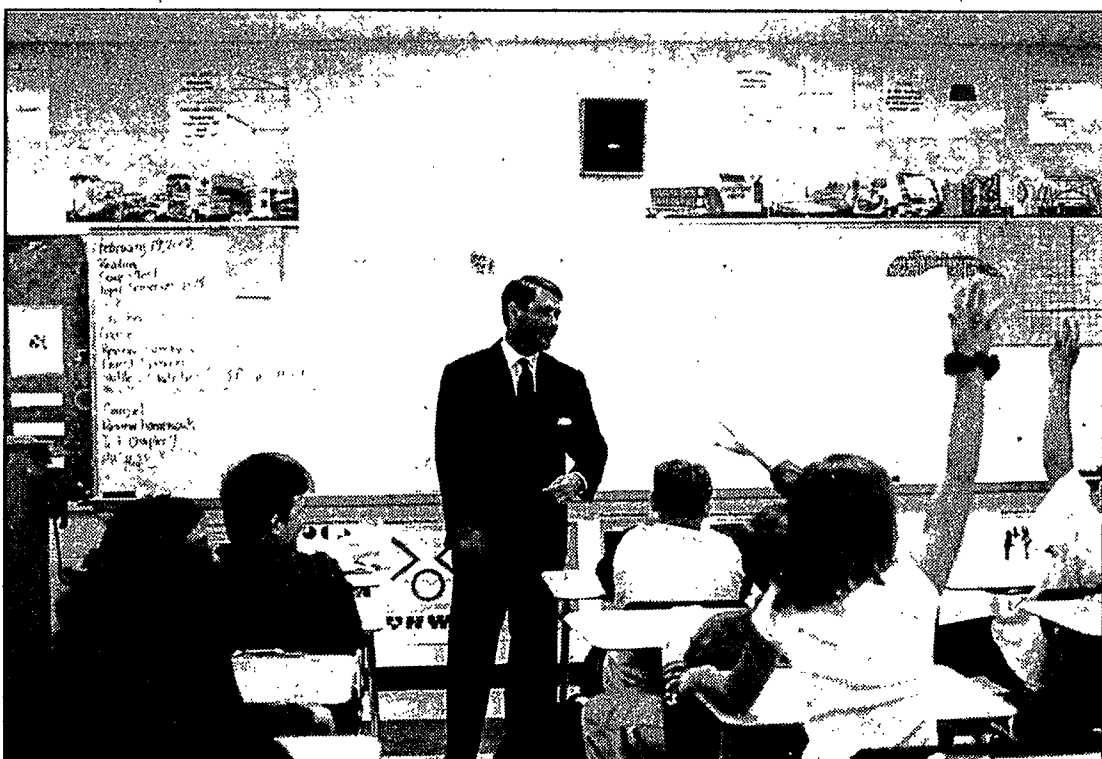
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Young investors

Students in Tammy Ladner's sixth grade math class at Hancock Middle School recently received a visit from Pierre Adams, financial consultant for Crown Capital Securities in Gretna. The sixth graders are currently taking part in a stock market project and needed additional information about investing. Adams provided students a hand-out outlining the basics on stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. He also explained how interest works, talked about a career in finance, and provided other general investment information. This first-hand account of the day-to-day financial business helps students to better understand how their studies apply to the workplace.

After Hours set Thursday on Coleman

The Hancock County Chamber of Commerce's March *Business After Hours* will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21, and hosted by four chamber member businesses on Coleman Ave. in Waveland. Sponsors are Ashman-Mollere Realty, Rickey's,

Mombo Graphics and That Cute Little Shop, who will each hold an open house.

There will be several door

prizes, guests are asked to bring along several business cards.

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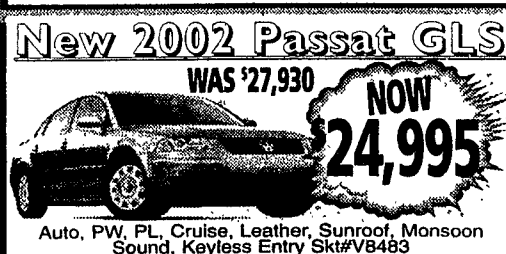
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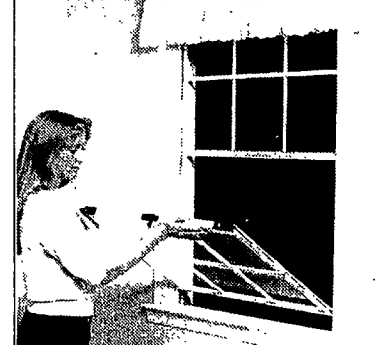
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OPINION

pg 4A



Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas
Publisher Emeritus

The month of March is moving along very rapidly, and many realize that it will soon be planting time for both vegetables and flowers.

I have already noted several folks about the area working on their flower and vegetable beds, getting them ready for planting.

Many of the old-timers set Good Friday, which this year is March 29, as a good time to get their seeds in the ground.

Gardening is not as popular as it was in years past, but there are still many who like those fresh vine-ripe tomatoes, etc.

And do not forget your pecan trees.

They may need some fertilizing as well as your lawn.

It sure makes a difference in a lawn when one is fertilized. It just makes the lawn so much greener and full. The only objection to some is the fact that it grows faster.

I hope that everyone who plants a garden will have a fine crop.

It is that time of the month once again, a Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours.

The March Business After Hours will be sponsored by the Coleman Avenue businesses of Ashman-Mollere Realty, Rickey's, Mombo Graphics and That Cute Little Shop and will be held Thursday evening, 5 to 7.

All four of the Coleman Avenue businesses will

host the After Hours with an open house.

I have been told there will be some good refreshments and tasty treats.

I hope to see you at the Chamber's March Business After Hours Thursday evening, P.S. Do not forget to bring along several business cards, as there will be some drawings for door prizes.

I received a telephone call Wednesday from Frank Ladner, president of Hancock County Pearl River Community College, informing me about a special Hancock County Day on Wednesday when the Wildcats will be hosting Gulf Coast Community College in a baseball doubleheader.

As many of you know, the new baseball coach at PRCC is Bay St. Louis native Jay Artigues, and the season's record thus far is 12-3.

Ladner is encouraging all Hancock PRCC alumni and supporters to come out and support the Wildcats Wednesday.

Ladner reports that he, Neil Favre and Ronnie Artigues will be offering Filé Gumbo, potato salad and French bread at the game with proceeds going to the baseball team.

Hancock County has several players on the Wildcat team this season.

The Hancock County PRCC Alumni Association was formed last year and is still seeking Hancock residents who are alumni of the community college. For further information, Ladner can be reached at 467-7130.

The fight for jobs continues in Mississippi

Mississippi has been eliminated from the competition for a \$1 billion, 2,000 employee Hyundai Motor Company automobile manufacturing plant because of what Hyundai said were problems with our proposed site and issues concerning workforce availability.

This has been a disappointing end to what has been a year-long effort by myself and others to help win this project. However, Mississippi's state, local and federal lead-



From the Senate

By U.S. Sen. Trent Lott

ers must move ahead in unison with efforts to secure new opportunities for all Mississippians.

Improving education, enhancing transportation and bringing better jobs to Mississippi remains my priorities as your Senator. Mississippi may have lost this battle, but we need not lose the war for good jobs.

The fact that Mississippi was among a final four states considered by this international company speaks volumes about how

far Mississippi has come. I can remember a time - not so long ago - when Mississippi would have never been considered for such an investment.

However, today with our successful recruitment of Nissan to our credit, Mississippi is competitive for the nation's top economic development projects.

When Hyundai President, Kim Dong-Jin called to tell me of his company's decision to eliminate Mississippi, he indicated there were two primary reasons for Hyundai's action.

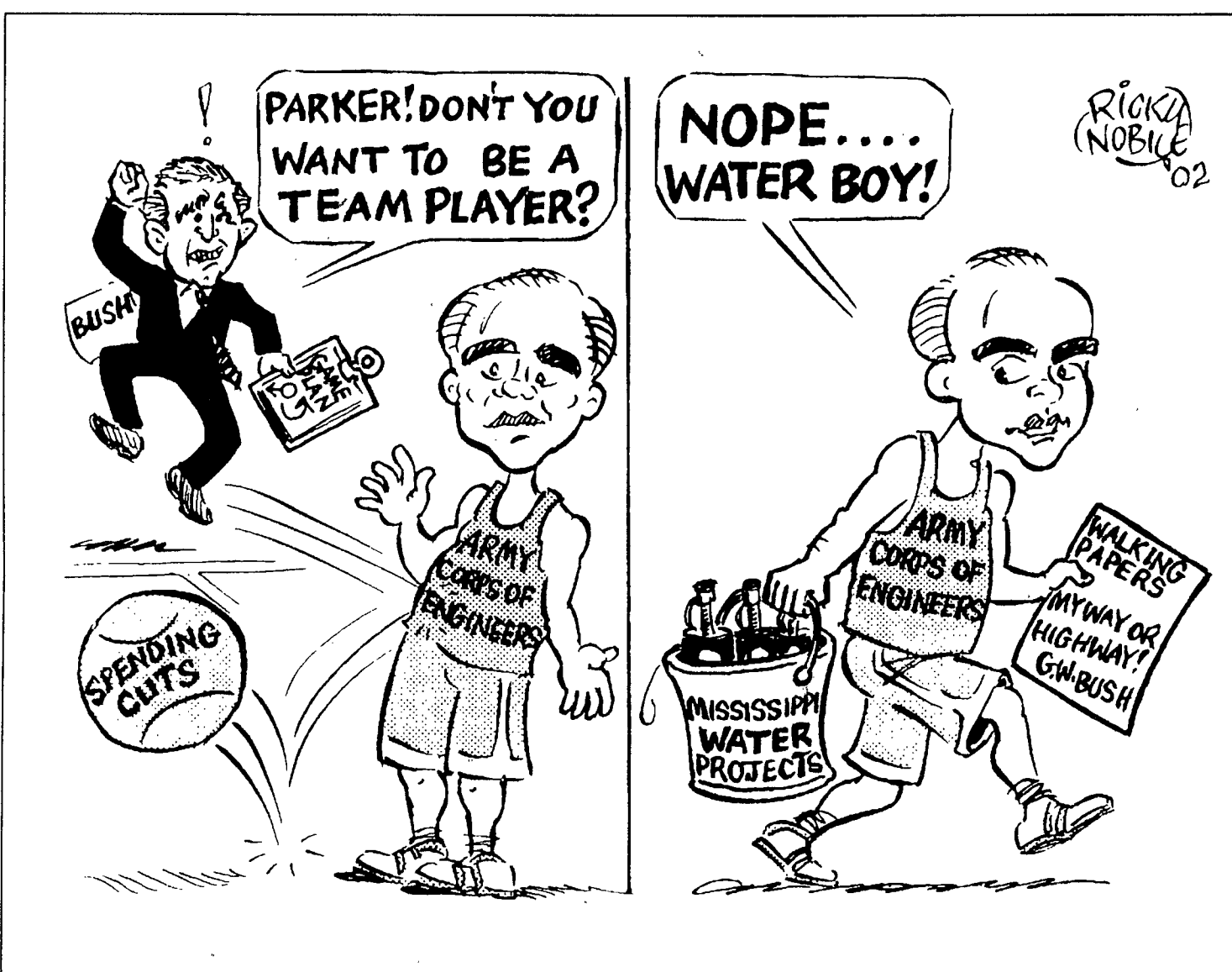
First, the company was concerned with the physical characteristics of the proposed site, which was locat-

ed between Pelahatchie and Morton.

In their view, this site was not as desirable as those offered by Alabama and Kentucky. Issues concerning soil, topography, tree removal and the like are all frequent obstacles which economic developers throughout Mississippi and our entire nation must face.

Mississippi is certainly not unique in this respect. Therefore in hindsight we probably should have dealt with the site concerns sooner, and we must be better prepared to adequately address these challenges next time - especially when

LOTT-PAGE 5A



Spring Pilgrimage was a huge success - thanks to you

To the Editor:
On behalf of the members of the Bay-Waveland Garden Club, I want to express our sincere appreciation to our friends, neighbors and visitors for the support of this year's Spring Pilgrimage Tour of Homes. When we awoke Tuesday morning, the weather could not have been more disappointing. Gusty winds, black skies and yes, rain! But, as they say in the theatre, "the show must go on." So we grabbed the rain coats and umbrellas and began the Pilgrimage. Despite the not so perfect weather, more than 500 people took to the streets of Bay St. Louis and Waveland to have a peek at several lovely homes and gardens. This tour is possible

because of the graciousness of our local homeowners. We extend our sincere thanks to them for agreeing to open their homes and share their sanctuaries.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Pilgrimage remains the only open tour that does not charge the visitors. It is a proud tradition that we will continue long into the future.

Also, we would like to thank our local merchants, the Bay St. Louis Police Department and Jimmy Loiacano for their help. The day may have been wet. But everyone enjoyed spending a day in Bay St. Louis and Waveland.

Kathleen Fernandez,
President
Bay-Waveland Garden Club

Calif. student seeks information from MS

Dear Editor,
I am in the fifth grade at Neil Haffley School in Manteca, Calif. I have adopted your state as a class project. I will be doing a report and making a display about Mississippi. This spring my class will be having a "States Fair." I will display and show everything that I have got-

ten and learned about your state to my whole school.

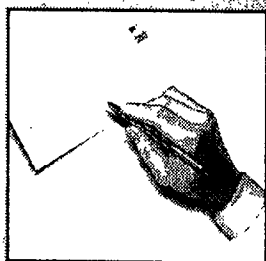
It would be helpful to me if you could ask your readers to send me postcards of your state, maps, brochures, information about wildlife, industry, neat places to visit, statistics, sports teams and any

LETTERS-PAGE 5A

Letters to the Editor

Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



There must be a better way

Dear Editor:
This is not only for myself, but for many seniors who are handicapped and sickly folk who must wait for hours to have their driver's license renewed.

One senior from Pearlinton had to wait half a day last week, but had to leave, and then returned on Monday to wait another hour or two.

My question is, why not have a few more people to help out so these people do not have to wait all day, especially with no chairs, but a very few, and lots of room in the empty building to put a few chairs in, or why not set up a person or two in Pearlinton, Kiln

and Bay St. Louis?

Pick a number and then wait for hours can't be too easy on these handicapped folk. Also, why not have a sign saying "Open only on Monday and Tuesday" where we don't make a double trip to get our licenses renewed.

This isn't easy on us or the two ladies who have to handle all these people.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak for everyone who has to endure the long wait.

I remember when four years ago, plus more, when there was a better system.

Sincerely,
Dee Wendling
Bay St. Louis

The Sea Coast Echo

USPS 487-100

Published Thursday and Sunday each week at 124 Court Street, Bay St. Louis, MS. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2009, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521-2009.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Sea Coast Echo, P.O. Box 2009, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521-2009. Periodical postage paid at Bay St. Louis, MS.

Phone (228) 467-5474



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Lott -- Mississippi jobs

Continued from Page 4A

competing with states which may be offering more finished industrial sites.

However, it is Hyundai's second criticism - workforce availability - which should be of more concern. The availability of a skilled or trainable workforce is always considered by industrial prospects. In that final telephone conversation, Mr. Kim indicated to me that in addition to the site's physical challenges, he was troubled by the prospects of competing with the nearby Nissan plant for employees.

I understand his position. For several months Nissan has fervently expressed concern that the potential Hyundai site's close proximity to Nissan's upcoming facility in Canton could cre-

ate workforce-availability problems for Nissan, and endanger Nissan's investments in Mississippi.

I listened, because Nissan Motor Company is now a Mississippi company, committed to creating at least 4,000 new jobs at their new plant.

In fact I always listen to existing Mississippi constituents over those who are not here and have made no commitment to be here. When Hyundai completed their own evaluation, they also expressed the same concerns about competing with Nissan for workers.

Let's not misunderstand this problem. Mississippi's workforce can sustain another major industrial project. However, we must

recognize that an available workforce may not be concentrated in any single part of Mississippi.

For this reason, our state's best interests may be better served by trying to spread economic development evenly throughout the state whenever possible.

In retrospect, had Hyundai been provided a serious site alternative well away from Nissan in East Mississippi, South Mississippi or North Mississippi, workforce concerns would not have been raised, and we would have been much more competitive.

Though we did not win this particular project, I believe our state can sustain other investments of

Hyundai proportions. We must learn from our mistakes, and before us are two lessons to which the Hyundai President clearly eluded.

First, Mississippi must always offer well-developed sites with physical characteristics that are comparable or better than out competitors' sites.

Second, our incentives must strike a careful balance between the needs of existing employers and the criteria put forward by any industrial prospect.

New jobs will not simply come to us, we must continue to seek them out. In the aftermath of this process, Mississippi's state, federal and local leaders must regroup, recommit and reevaluate our tactics in the future fight for jobs.

• *Senator Lott welcomes any questions and/or comments about this column. Write to: U.S. Senator Trent Lott, 487 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (Attention: Press Office)*

Letters

Continued from Page 4A

other information and items your readers feel would be helpful.

I hope your readers will help me with my project. I'm looking forward to hearing from you and promise to send a thank you to them for helping me.

I am excited about learning about your state.

Thank you from
California,
Kathleen Goff
Mrs. Robertson's Class

Neil Hafley School
849 North Gate Drive

Manteca, CA 95336

Legislature looks at college board

This week the House of Representatives passed a constitutional amendment to reform the state's Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

This entity is also known as the College Board or the IHL Board. The 12 members are appointed to staggered 12 year terms. Currently seven of the members are appointed from Congressional Districts that were created in 1944.

Mississippi no longer has

seven Congressional Districts, but rather has only four. As a result, the breakdown of the College Board tends to reflect geographically the population as it was in 1944 which favors north Mississippi.

This disparity is cited as a cause for the apparent inequities in how universities are funded, particularly the University of Southern Mississippi and traditionally black universities. The House passed

SCR522 revising the districts from which IHL Board members are chosen. If passed and ratified by the people, the members will be evenly chosen from each of the three current State Supreme Court districts.

Also, we passed a floor amendment reducing the terms of the members from 12 years to 6 years. The final version will be worked out in conference.

Requiring a 2/3 vote, the measure narrowly passed by a 7-vote margin (87-34).

With questions or comments, please contact Rep. Dirk Deddeaux at the State Capitol, (601) 359-3770, P.O. Box 1018 Jackson, MS 39215-1018.



**From the
State House**

By Rep. Dirk
Deddeaux

Farm Service Agency offering loan funds

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan funds to help socially disadvantaged beginning farmers, including minorities, buy land for farming or to operate farms in Pearl River, Hancock or Harrison counties, said

Mickey L. Black, state executive director.

Under this program enacted by Congress, socially disadvantaged are women, Hispanics, Native Americans, African Americans, Asians and

Pacific Islanders.

FSA can also provide other loan assistance, including operating loans, and advice if needed, to help the beginning farmer get started. Contact the FSA county office.



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Little Zion Spring Revival is March 20-22

Little Zion Baptist Church, 510 Central and Baker streets in Waveland, will hosts its Spring Revival March 20-22.

Rev. Alex Wesco, Jr., pastor of the Greater Emanuel Baptist Church of Picayune will be the evangelist.

The revival will begin nightly at 7 with Bible study service beginning at 7:30.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF WAVELAND

Please take notice that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, At their regular meeting of February 20, 2002, have called a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 6:00 P.M. in the City of Waveland Annex Building Board Room, 307 Coleman Avenue, to discuss the following matters:

1. Redistricting in the City of Waveland, as ordered by the U.S. Justice Department

No other items will be discussed or acted upon.

Lisa B. Planchard,
City Secretary



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Red Hat Society



The Pearls of the Mississippi Sound chapter of the national Red Hat Society.

Pearls of the MS Sound meet in Hancock

The Pearls of the Mississippi Sound, chapter of the National Red Hat Society held its first meeting Feb. 27.

Meetings will be conducted once a month with cocktails at 5:15 p.m. and dinner around 6:30 p.m.

Members will be informed of upcoming meetings by telephone calls or e-mails.

This is an organization

of women who enjoy camaraderie and frivolity, whose main purpose is to have a good time.

Women 50 and over must wear red hats and purple outfits, women under 50 (Princess in Waiting) must wear lavender outfits and pink hats.

The annual dues will be \$5, payable in cash or personal check.

For information on the

mother organization: www.redhatsociety.com. For information on the Pearl of MS Sound, contact Connie Bousom, Queen. Momma, Bousom@earthlink.net.

Those interested in joining, forward full name, address, phone number and e-mail to: Jennie Lou Mintz, E-Mail-Female, 452-7779, Mssound@data-sync.com.

Best bean cookers sought for Cook-off

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS

Publisher Emeritus

The 13th annual American Red Beans & Rice Cook-Off is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 22, at the Hancock County Civic Center, Longfellow Road. General Chairman Jimmie Ladner, Jr. reports.

"At this time we are seeking new participants along with those who have participated in previous years. Last year we had some 40 competitors and would like to increase that number to 50 this year," Ladner said.

Ladner continued, "This is a very important fund raiser for the American Cancer Society in our county, and we need more participants."

Participants are divided into four categories: government, restaurants, organizations and businesses.

Ladner said, "A new award this year will be for the Best Cornbread. This new award will be in addition to the Camellia Bean, Golden Bean, Showmanship, People's Choice, and Best Bean Award in each category. The Camellia Bean Award will be given for the most unique beans."

The red beans for the Cook-Off are supplied by Camellia, while participants supply the rice and

'secret' ingredients. The beans and rice are cooked before the event.

Among the original organizers of the first Cook-Offs were Janet McQueen, Anne Schmidt Andry and Basil Kennedy.

At the Cook-Off, dessert in the form of bread is usually supplied by Waveland Market Center and Diamondhead Supermarket.

Individuals are also welcomed and encouraged to participate in the Cook-Off.

The general public plays an important role, too, as there is an admission fee of \$6 per person, which entitles individuals to all of the red beans and rice they can eat.

The Hancock County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, (RSVP) will assist at the Cook-Off in tickets collections, etc.

There is a group of committee members who will be assisting Ladner in the Cook-Off, and they include Margaret Hadden, Justice Court Judge Rickey Adam, and many others.

Ladner said, "Registration forms to last year's participants will be following in the mail. For further information you can call me, or Sandra Hoda at 466-6791, in addition to Judge Adam at 255-3550."

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SPECIAL TO THE ECHO

On Saturday March 23, the "Friends Of The Animal Shelter In Hancock County" will sponsor the second annual "Easter Paws On Parade" in Waveland.

The event kicks off at 11 a.m. starting at Ricky's Restaurant on Coleman Avenue. Leading the parade will be this year's grand marshals Scott and Barbara Balyeat of Long Beach with their two search and rescue dogs Logan and Inga.

The Easter Bunny will also parade along with the St. Clare beginner marching band. Pets and their people are encouraged to come join the fun.

Pre-registration forms are available at Pet Haven Veterinary Hospital, Bookends Bookstore, and The Purple Snapper, all in Bay St. Louis.

You may also register parade day from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in front of Ricky's Restaurant. Pre-

registration is \$5 per pet. parade day registration is \$7 per pet. It is recommended you pre-register at any of the three locations.

The parade will culminate at the soccer field at Coleman and Central Avenue where there will be an all-day festival. Informational pet booths, arts and crafts, food, and photos of your pet with the Easter Bunny will be available.

Also scheduled is a Blessing of the Animals, demonstrations by the Mississippi Mavericks Agility Club, the Gulf Coast Search and Rescue dogs and pet contests for best costume, first, second and third place, biggest pet, smallest pet, and pet and owner look-alike. The mysterious Madam Ju-Ju, paw reader extraordinaire, will be on hand to tell your pet's fortune.

A signed numbered limited edition poster by Bay

artist Paula Leoni, commemorating the event, will be available for \$5.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Waveland Animal Shelter.

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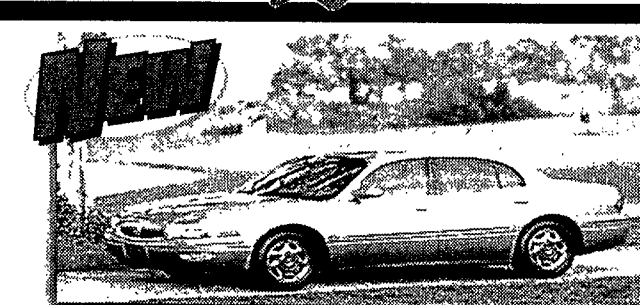
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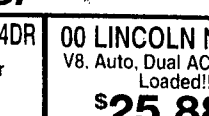
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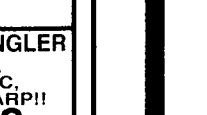
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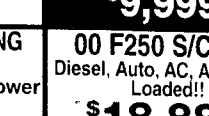
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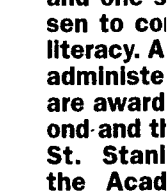
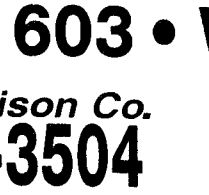
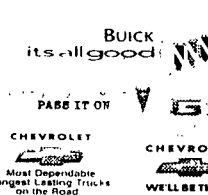
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Obituaries

EDWARD BISHOP
DAVID CARPENTER
PETER DEAGANO
JOHN FARVE
GREGORY FUCICH
ALINE KEATING
CAROLYN LADNER
EDDIE MALLEY
THELMA YOCKEY
DR. A. WEIDIE JR.

EDWARD BISHOP
 Edward Bishop, 58, of Pass Christian, died Thursday, March 14, 2002, in Pass Christian.

Services are pending at House of Richmond in Gulfport.

DAVID CARPENTER
 David I. "Bill" Carpenter, 83, of Bay St. Louis, died Monday, March 11, 2002, in Diamondhead.

Mr. Carpenter was a native of Garland, Ala. and a longtime resident of Bay St. Louis. He was a veteran retiring from the U.S. Army after serving 19 years. He was a member of the American Legion Post 139 and was a Baptist.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Laura Geoffrey Carpenter; a daughter, Lois Osterholm; his parents, David Benjamin and Lois McClure Carpenter; a brother, Royce LaDon Carpenter; sisters Kay Carpenter Young and Lois Carpenter Anderson and two great-grandchildren.

Survivors include sons David I. Carpenter, Jr. and Brian Keith Carpenter, both of Bay St. Louis; a daughter, Diane Selle of Bay St. Louis; brothers Ben Keener Carpenter of Spanish Fort, Ala. and George Vernon Carpenter of MacDavid, Fla.; and sisters Voncille Carpenter of Caufield of Birmingham, Ala. and Mary Lou Peggy Harvill of Atmore, Ala.; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Visitation was March 14 at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis followed by a prayer service in the funeral home chapel and burial in Garden of Memory Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

PETER DEAGANO
 Peter J. Deagano, 75, of Diamondhead, died Sunday, March 10, 2002, in Diamondhead.

Mr. Deagano was a lifelong resident of New Orleans and grew up in the French Quarter. He retired from the State of Louisiana as an inspector of the Contracting Boards.

He was a longtime trainer of thoroughbred horses at the Fairgrounds in New Orleans and other race-tracks. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and received the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Area Medal, 8 Stars and American Area Ribbon Medal, 8 Stars. He was a member of the American Legion Post 139 in Bay St. Louis. Mr. Deagano attended Holy Cross in New Orleans and was graduated from Tulane University. He was active in politics in Louisiana until he moved to Diamondhead in 1991.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Marie Deagano.

Survivors include his wife, Sheri Deagano of Diamondhead; brothers Ted Deagano Sr. and Warren Deagano Sr., both of Metairie, and Lionel Deagano Sr. of Terrytown; 10 nieces and six nephews.

Visitation will be Tuesday, March 19 at 10 a.m. at Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis followed by services at 11 a.m.

There will be a memorial service at a later date at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans.

Burial will be in Biloxi National Cemetery. The family prefers memorials to the American Cancer Society.

JOHN FARVE
 John Farve, 76, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, March 13, 2002, at Touro

Infirmity Hospital.

He was the beloved and devoted husband of Elmore Chambers Farve; the son of the late Alcide and Dora Maurice Farve; father of Gregory and Wayne Farve, Adelaide Farve Williams, Nadine Farve Toney, Doreen Farve Clay, Darnell Farve Williams and Patrick H. Sanders; brother of the late Dennis, Peter, Edna and Gladys Mae Farve, Dorothy Sims and Clara Moore; brother-in-law of Laura Farve. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and a host of nieces, nephews, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law, other relatives and friends.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Augustine Church, 1210 Gov. Nicholls St. in New Orleans, on Monday, March 18, at noon.

Interment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday from 9 a.m. until mass time; and today, Sunday, at St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis, from 5 p.m., and at the D. W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave., new Orleans, from 7-9 p.m.

GREGORY FUCICH
 Gregory Mark Fucich, 44, of Walker, La., died Tuesday, March 12, 2002, in Walker.

Mr. Fucich was a native of Gulfport and a resident of Walker. He was a Catholic.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Jean Asher Fucich.

Survivors include his wife, Patti Maurigi Fucich of Walker; sons Gregory M. Fucich, Justin C. Fucich and Steven A. Fucich, all of Walker; a daughter, Pamela L. Fucich of Walker; his father, Vladimir Fucich of Waveland; a brother, Kevin Fucich of New Orleans; and two sisters, Jeannine Favre of Waveland and Cheryl Johnson of Nashville, Tenn.

Services were conducted Friday at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. Burial was in Lakeshore Cemetery.

ALINE KEATING
 Aline Bernadas Keating, 73, of Waveland, died Wednesday, March 13, 2002, in Waveland.

Mrs. Keating was a native of New Orleans and a resident of Waveland for the past 25 years. She was a member of St. Clare Catholic Church in Waveland and was the secretary for the City of Waveland for 10 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Warren F. and Myrtle Gregory Bernadas.

Survivors include her husband, William G. Keating of Waveland; sons Nat Keating of Jackson, Miss. and Warren Keating of Los Angeles, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Visitation was Friday at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis followed by a memorial service in the funeral home chapel. Interment will be private at a later date.

CAROLYN LADNER
 Carolyn Alton Ladner, 76, of Waveland, died Wednesday, March 13, 2002, in Biloxi.

Mr. Ladner was a native of Lakeshore and a resident of Waveland. He was a member of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis and was a veteran of the United States Army.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Monroe Leo

and Georgia A. LaFontaine Ladner.

Survivors include sons Carl Ladner of Folsom, La. and Kent Ladner of Kenner; daughters Donna D'Antoni of Kenner, Karen Gauthier of Lexington, Ky., Susan Aenon of Thailand, and Kerry Babin of Plano, Texas; a brother, Clyde L. Ladner of Bay St. Louis; and six grandchildren.

Visitation was Saturday at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis followed by celebration of a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Ann Catholic Church in Clermont Harbor and interment in Bayou Caddy Cemetery in Ansley.

EDDIE MALLEY
 Eddie L. Malley, 70, of Kiln, died Wednesday, March 13, 2002, in Gulfport.

Mr. Malley was a member of Annunciation Catholic Church in Kiln and was a retired mechanic from Charlie Henderson Ford. He was also a Mason.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oswald and Hilda Malley; brothers Steven Malley, Oliver Malley, Harold Malley, James Malley and Eugene Malley; and sisters Alverta Malley and Eldora Morrison.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Malley of Kiln; sons E. J. Malley, Edmond Malley and Kent Malley, all of the Fenton community, and Clark Malley of the Standard community; sisters Katherine Bennett of Fenton and Vevlyn Norton of Gulfport; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be today, March 17 at 5 p.m. at Dedeaux School Services will be conducted Monday at 2 p.m. at the school followed by burial in Alphonse Malley Cemetery in Hancock County.

Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

THELMA YOCKEY
 Thelma Lynch Yockey, 82, of Pass Christian, died Tuesday, March 12, 2002, in Pass Christian.

Mrs. Yockey was a native of New Orleans and was a longtime resident of the Gulf Coast. She was a school teacher and formerly taught at Holy Name of Jesus School, New Orleans, and retired after teaching for 22 years at St. Paul Catholic School in Pass Christian.

She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church where she was a member of the Altar Society and former director of religious education and altar server formation. She was the 1984 recipient of the Knights of Columbus Propagation of the Faith Award.

Mrs. Yockey was a member of Phi Chi Pi Sorority, was a charter member of the Friends of the Pass Christian Library, and was a member of Louisiana Colonials. She was a former member of Pass Christian Yacht Club, Pass Christian Isles Gulf Club and St. Paul Carnival Association.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hal Ross Yockey; a son, James Hewson Yockey; and a daughter, Melanie Y. McKennon.

Survivors include a son, Ross Paul Yockey of Charlotte, N.C.; six daughters, Jeannine Y. Burch of Pass Christian, Celeste M. Maugh of Picayune, Leslie Y. Seese of Springfield, Ore., Lisa Y. Jones and Shannon T. Y. Lavinghouse, both of Long Beach, and Shelley Y. Parker of Katy, Texas; 20

grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation was Friday at St. Paul Catholic Church followed by celebration of a Mass of the Resurrection. Burial was in St. Paul Cemetery in Pass Christian.

The family prefers memorials to St. Vincent de Paul, c/o St. Paul Catholic Church, P. O. Box 548, Pass Christian, MS 39571; or to Cenacle Retreat House, P.O. Box 8115, Metairie, LA 70011. Riemann Funeral Home in Gulfport was in charge of arrangements.

DR. A. WEIDIE JR.
 Dr. Alfred Edward Weidie Jr., 70, of Pearlington, died Friday, March 15, 2002, in Bay St. Louis.

Dr. Weidie was a native of New Orleans, and longtime resident of Pearlington. He was of the Catholic faith and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pearlington. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps as a 1st lieutenant serving in the Korean War. He was a graduate of Vanderbilt University and was a member of Chi Chapter of kappa Alpha Order. He then earned his masters and doctorate degrees in geology from Louisiana State University. He returned to New Orleans, where he established and founded the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of New Orleans, where he taught geology for 34 years before his retirement. He was a lifelong Privateer supporter, and served as president of the Sun Belt Athletic Conference.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred E. and Dorothy MacDonald Weidie.

Survivors include his wife, Ana Torres Weidie; three sons, Scott of Kailua, hi., Todd of Mandeville and Fr. Kent Weidie of Compton, Ca.; a brother, Wayne Weidie, of Washington, D.C.; four grandchildren; and his dearly beloved family in Mexico. Visitation was Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, with interment at the Pearlington Cemetery. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Homestead exemption applications will be taken from January 2, 2001 through April 1, 2002. These applications must be filed in the Bay St. Louis office of, the Hancock County Tax Assessor between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm.

You must be living in your home as of January 1, 2002 to qualify for homestead exemption for the current year.

The following information is needed to file your application.

- A) recorded warranty deed
- B) cost of property
- C) down payment amount
- D) license plate number's for vehicles registered in Hancock County (must have vehicles registered in Hancock County)
- E) If you are over 65 Proof of age
- F) If you are receiving 100% disability benefits proof of your disability.
- G) If you have vehicles licensed in other states you must show reason.
- H) Is any Part of the property rented?

You must re-file your homestead exemption application if

- A) You became 65 years of age.
- B) You became 100% disabled.
- C) You acquired a new residence
- D) You acquired additional" property that adjoins your homestead.
- E) Your marital Status changed (divorced, widowed, separated etc.)

If you have any questions please call 228-467-4425 or 888-409-6239

Jimmie, Ladner, Jr.
 Tax Assessor / Collector
 Hancock County.



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Dustin G. Smith, D.M.D.

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Listing of these previously mentioned area(s) of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise therein.



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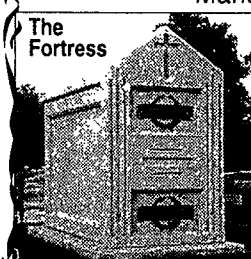
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Hancock and Chief E George A. announced Holding Co moted Alfre Rodney Sa Vice Preside

Horne's 2 service to have includ Trust, Inter most rece President Management charged wit for the comp agement an

With this assumes str cal resp Hancok's and complie full-time b she earned science ar degrees in l istration University Mississippi

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The ne meeting Diamondhe Professiona be at the Country Ch a.m.

Guest s Murphy D director of t Saints.

Future will be J Hancock Ce tor, and the for the upco tions.

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The Miss Association its new pr during tl Conference in February

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meet

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Keesler Union is tl union in serves over bers.

For infor 385-5500 www.kfcu.o

The Sea Coast Echo

BUSINESS NEWS

Bank names 2 new senior vice presidents

Hancock Bank President and Chief Executive Officer George A. Schloegel has announced that Hancock Holding Company has promoted Alfreda A. Horne and Rodney Sandoz to Senior Vice Presidents.

Horne's 25-plus years of service to Hancock Bank have included positions in Trust, Internal Audit, and, most recently, as Vice President and Risk Management Officer charged with responsibility for the company's risk management and insurance.

With this promotion, she assumes strategic and tactical responsibility for Hancock's audit, security, and compliance areas. As a full-time bank employee, she earned both bachelor of science and a master's degrees in business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi through

Hancock's tuition reimbursement program.

She graduated from the BAI School for Bank Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987 and the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University in 2001. The Gulfport native also holds American Institute of Banking basic and applied diplomas.

Horne, a certified financial services auditor with the National Association of Financial Services Auditors, is past president of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter) and served as Mississippi Bankers Association audit committee chair. She is a member of the Gulfport Exchange Club, the Moore Community House policy council board, and Mount Pleasant United Methodist

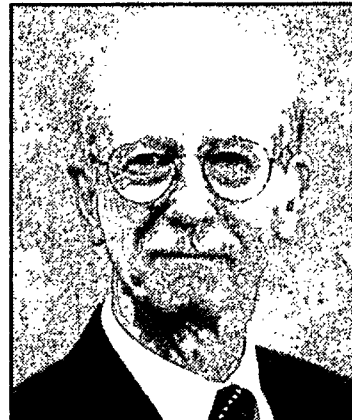
Church.

Veteran Hancock Bank employee Sandoz, a New Orleans native, began his banking career with Hancock in 1957 as a bank runner. The St. Stanislaus High School graduate received promotions to various branch assignments, including teller and head teller. He holds an American Institute of Banking (AIB) standard certificate and completed numerous data processing and technology applications training courses while working in branches and most Hancock operations departments.

Transferred to Hancock's technology unit, he garnered over 36 years of technology experience and rose as a vice president responsible for various technology management assignments - most recently, as Manager of Applications



Alfreda A. Horne



Rodney Sandoz

Programming. With this promotion, he assumes strategic and tactical responsibility for Hancock's technology division as the senior technology officer.

Sandoz has held numerous officer positions with the St. Thomas Catholic School board, St. Thomas parish council, Knights of Columbus on the local and state levels, Long Beach Carnival Association, Long Beach School Board, Optimist Club, and AIB's Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter. He and his wife, the former Josie Compretta, have five children and are long-time residents of Long Beach.

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3-year	4.55% APY	Minimum deposit \$5,000
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3-15-02

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AT & T/T	15.80	- .08
AUTOZONE INC/AZO	68.60	+ 4.08
BELLSOUTH/BLS	38.10	- .46
BOEING/BA	47.98	- 1.42
CALGON CARBON/CCC	7.70	+ .15
CHEVRON /CVX	89.80	+ 2.15
COCA COLA/KO	48.64	+ .79
CSX CORP/CSX	38.40	- .25
DUPONT/DD	48.47	+ 1.39
GENERAL ELEC/GE	40.19	+ .41
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	27.51	- .57
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	53.19	- 1.79
INTL BUSINESS MACHINE/IBM	106.79	+ 1.70
INTL PAPER CO/IP	44.61	+ .25
K MART CORP/KM	1.40	+ .11
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	57.81	+ 1.07
PARK PLACE ENT/PPE	10.40	+ .20
PEN NATL GAMING/PENN	36.03	+ .23
PEOPLES FINANCIAL /PFBX	14.50	+ 1.00
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD	28.72	+ .81
MIRANT/ MIR	12.40	- .10
REGIONS FINANCIAL/RGBR	34.78	+ .62
ROCKWELL INTL CORP/ROK	20.98	- .37
SOUTHERN COMPANY/SO	26.32	+ .28
UNION PLANTERS/UPC	48.27	+ .90
WAL MART STORES/WMT	63.75	+ 1.23
WELLMAN INC/WLM	15.50	- .40
WHITNEY HOLDING/WTNY	49.48	+ .65

Submitted by Craig Foster, Edward Jones Co.

Diamondhead group to meet March 28

The next membership meeting of the Diamondhead Business & Professional Association will be at the Diamondhead Country Club March 28 at 8 a.m.

Guest speaker will be Murphy Doré, promotions director of the New Orleans Saints.

Future guest speakers will be Jimmie Ladner, Hancock County tax collector, and the POA candidates for the upcoming June elections.

Business After Hours will be conducted the same day at the Diamondhead branch of Whitney Bank, 5-7 p.m.

Anyone interested in the growth of Diamondhead is invited to join the Diamondhead Business & Professional Association. Retired persons are welcome.

For membership information, contact Tanna Adam, club secretary, at 255-3550 or John Hall, director, at 255-6111.

Board game features Hancock County, casino

Now you can play visit and buy many tourism destinations, cities, counties and attractions in Mississippi.

The Mississippi Tourism Association (MTA) unveiled its new promotional game during the Governor's Conference on Tourism 2002 in February.

"Mississippi In a Box," is a board game styled in the familiar fashion of a game that we all grew up with, complete with tokens, homes, motels, play money, deeds, dice and even a "Get out of Jackson Free" card.

The game highlights various tourist destinations and activities around the state, including Hancock County and Casino Magic Bay St. Louis.

"Mississippi in a Box" is available, in limited supply, and may be purchased through MTA for \$25 each

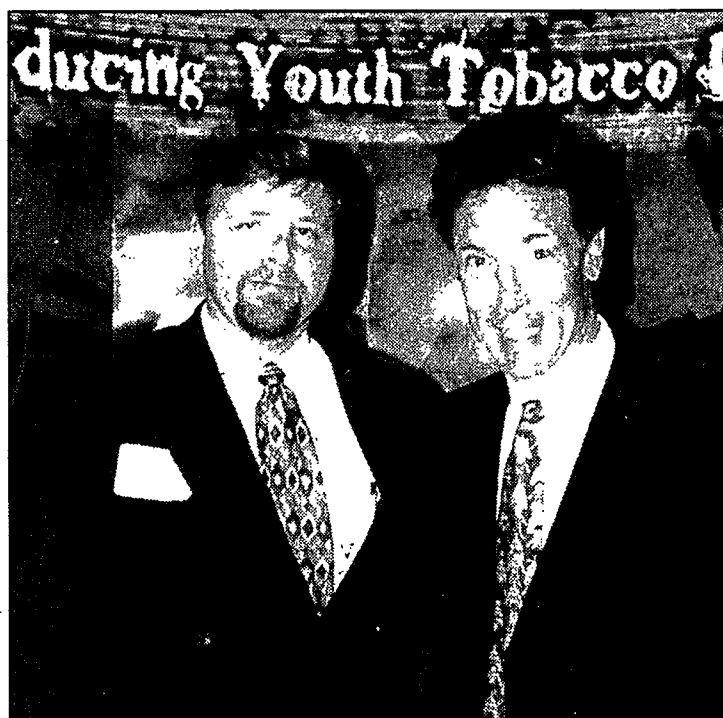
Credit union membership meeting set

Keesler Federal Credit Union announces its annual membership meeting for 2002 will be at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m.

The credit union will conduct its annual business meeting and honor long-term employees. Cash and prizes will be awarded and all members are encouraged to attend and participate.

Keesler Federal Credit Union is the largest credit union in Mississippi and serves over 150,000 members.

For information, call 228-385-5500 or visit website www.kfcu.org.



PATH receives award

Robert James, local director for the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi (Path, Partners Against Tobacco in Hancock County) receives an award for "Outstanding Community Collaboration." Presenting the award is Attorney General Mike Moore at an awards banquet in Jackson. The partnership was formed in 1999 and is charged with reducing youth tobacco use. With the help of the program, there has been an approximately 30 percent decrease in tobacco use in area middle schools. To contact PATH, dial 467-1481.

Beat The 15th!

April 15 It's on its way

The dreaded tax time.

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There may be a substantial penalty for early withdrawals. Interest is paid monthly. At maturity, this IRA automatically renews for a 60-month term at current rate offered at maturity. \$1,000 minimum deposit. Annual Percentage Yield is accurate as of 3/17/02. May not be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Offer available for a limited time and may be withdrawn at any time.

Three generations of nursing



Melinda Wiggins, left, was graduated from nursing school Dec. 24, 2001 and is employed with Sildell Memorial Hospital. Her mother, Janet Wiggins has been in nursing for 24 years and is employed with Dr. Timothy Jackson, orthopaedic surgeon, in Gulfport. Grandmother Bernice Luxich worked many years in nursing and is retired from the VA Medical Center.

Plant

Continued from Page 1A

city's Municipal harbor, then transported to the plant where they are shucked, and packed for delivery to other locations.

"Our building was constructed many years ago and is now too small and outdated for the type of business we run," Jenkins explained in a letter to the Board.

Jenkins said the business sometimes operates 24 hours, but he plans to construct a new, larger building and reduce operating hours to daylight only.

Jenkins proposes to build a 9000-square-foot metal building on a 25-acre tract of land he has assembled north of the existing building. The building now facing North Street would be used for storage, and a large area would be set aside for employee parking and to provide a turn-around for

18-wheelers or other trucks coming into the plant.

At the hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment, some neighbors voiced concerns about traffic backing up on North Street.

City Attorney Malcolm Jones said plans are to divert the existing drainage canal located west of the property and create a wider turnaround for the trucks. He said traffic would enter off North Street, head north, and make a loop.

Other neighbors worried about odors coming from the oyster shells or from the shrimp refuse.

The Zoning Board approved the petition with the provision that oyster shells are placed at least 800 feet back from North Street and no shrimp or by-products are to be stored on the property.

Probe -- FBI eyes Southern Regional

Continued from Page 1A

Sept. 2000 and 1999, outlining 13 possible violations of state purchasing laws, including payment of invoices without written contracts or explanation of services. There were also questions of possible double-billing for services.

Moore and Powell auditor Steve Dockens requested a written response from the district. A response was drawn up by then-board attorney Lucien Gex, signed by the three board members at the time — Gerald Gex, Favre and Waveland Mayor Tommy Longo — and delivered to Moore and Powell in November of last year.

The letter states that, to the best of their "knowledge and belief, no events, including instances of non-compliance, have occurred that would require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements or in the schedule of findings and recommendations."

Also in November of last year, Moore and Powell returned the Annual Financial Report to Southern Regional which included a schedule of findings and recommendations.

A question about a \$17,100 payment in December 1999 to the district's engineering firm, Duke Levy and Associates, representing a 90 percent completion of a report on an expansion and another payment of \$25,200 in June 2000 were apparently paid without a written contract. The written contract for the aforementioned work was approved at a meeting in September 2000.

The audit firm questioned whether a verbal agreement constitutes a legal obligation to the district and recommended that a written agreement listing

services and fees be obtained prior to the performances of such. Management responded, saying it had a board-approved contract dated January 1993 with the engineer.

The audit firm also questioned a \$42,858 fee paid to outside contract engineer Gary Beard, to assist in the Edward's Bayou problem in February 2000 and March 2000. Though the board approved hiring Beard, the invoices included no explanation of services performed or dates of services, only the number of hours billed, the report said. Another invoice for \$4,679 for materials and equipment also showed little or no documentation.

Management responded by saying the documentation was on file, but unrequested. Auditors say documentation for materials and equipment was not presented.

The audit firm also questioned a purchase of a turbidity meter from Beard for \$3,160 on May 9 and installation charges of \$6,325 on May 17, 2000, because the board did not approve payment until May 18, they say, and the approval was contingent upon proof of bids.

Management said the board was notified of the need on March 31 of that year, given an estimate of the cost of the meter, and authorized Beard to proceed with equipment selection needed to comply with mandates and time schedules of the consent order from EPA. Failure to do so would have imposed fines on the district, management said. The audit firm still questioned invoice dates and payment dates.

The audit firm also ques-

tioned purchases of equipment made through the consultant engineering company and recommended that all purchases requiring quotes or bids be made through the district and advertised as required. Management said that prior to purchase, the need was discussed in a public meeting and every attempt was made to appraise the board of the needs of the staff.

Finally, the audit firm

questioned allowing the consultant engineer compete for other services required by the district before the date he was hired as interim plant manager.

Moore and Powell are no longer employed by Southern Regional and no longer do municipal audits. The board voted Tuesday to hire Gerald Rigby as auditor for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2000 and ending September 31, 2001.

HANCOCK COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY FISCAL 2002-2003 BUDGET (July - June)

Approved in regular meeting: March 12, 2002

Description	BUDGET 2002-2003
REVENUES	
Hancock County	\$ 452,135.88
Bay St. Louis	\$ 195,123.24
Waveland	\$ 156,447.36
Diamondhead	\$ 132,804.00
Millage	\$ 829,905.00
Total	\$ 1,766,415.48
EXPENDITURES	
Garbage Collection	\$ 936,510.48
Garbage Disposal	\$ 331,684.62
Recycling Collection	\$ 177,438.58
Recycling Bins	\$ 10,000.00
Rubbish Collection	\$ 114,781.80
Rubbish Landfill	\$ 140,000.00
Administrator	\$ 6,000.00
Attorney/Legal	\$ 10,000.00
Engineer	\$ 10,000.00
Advertising	\$ 10,000.00
Audit	\$ 10,000.00
Seminars/Travel	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 1,766,415.48

Resigns

Continued from Page 1A

possible problems mentioned in the resignation letters.

The board also passed a motion requesting that the engineer, Duke Levy and the contractor, Max Foote Construction submit written statements in response to the statements contained in the letters before next week's meeting.

Board members also approved a motion appointing Cheryl Colson to act as district supervisor until further notice.

"It is with regrets that we accept these resignations," said board member Eddie Favre. We had gone to great lengths to obtain these individuals as employees."

"I am never happy to see anybody resign," said board member Rocky Pullman. "But we look forward to interviewing candidates for the positions. I appreciate that Dr. Glover gave us 80 hours notice and we of course appreciate what these men have done for Southern Regional."

Dip

Continued from Page 1A

the residence, and she did not realize the vehicle was missing. She told officers the last time she saw the vehicle at the residence was around 2:15 a.m. Thursday.

Varnell said Criminal Investigator Howard Park is continuing an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Long Beach Garden Club announces art show winners

Long Beach Garden Club announces the winners of its sixth annual art show held in conjunction with the Spring Pilgrimage.

Theme was "Gardens to Galleries." Judged by Ted Rose, the winners and their works are:

First place: Terry Blake Edwards, "My Oaks," watercolor crayon

Second place: Dot Copeland, "New Orleans Petunias," watercolor

Third place: Patrick Bodine, "Jan of Dreams," clay

Honorable mention: Al Kellogg, "Back Porch, Long Vue Gardens," mixed media; and Dr. Gerald Wessler,

"Palmettos," watercolor

Some 24 artists entered 66 pieces of work. Awards included a \$75 gift certificate for framing from Dynamic Arts, 308-A Jeff Davis Ave., Long Beach, and \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50, third place.

This year Bodine's Pottery, 108 Jeff Davis Ave., Long Beach, gave a one-hour tile glazing lesson, the winner of which was selected by a drawing among participating artists. The winners of the show are on display at the Long Beach Public Library until March 21. For information, contact Tricia McDonald, 452-3049.



Tamara Lohman

Will a local win at Mrs. Mississippi pageant?

Tamara Joy Lohman of Waveland, wife of James Lohman, Jr. for 20 years, will be representing our Gulf Coast area as Mrs. Waveland in the upcoming Mrs. Mississippi U.S. 2002 Pageant March 16.

She will be judged in categories personal interview, evening gown, and swimsuit competition.

The pageant recognizes the strength, beauty, intelligence, and success of married women. The winner will be representing the Magnolia State at the Mrs. United States Pageant in Las Vegas this summer.

The Mrs. Mississippi U.S. Pageant will be staged at the Imperial Palace Casino Showroom Saturday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Pageant tickets are \$10 and maybe purchased at the door. A portion of the proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

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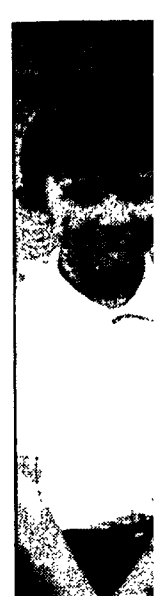
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North Bay December Flood, Miral Williams, Li

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SPECIAL Michelle of Pass Rebecca Diamondh on the De fall sem

NEW ECONO/CARPORT \$585

North Bay Elementary's Terrific Kids



North Bay Elementary School Terrific Kids for November, December and January include, from left, Steven Mecom, Michael Johnson and Dylan Stevens.



North Bay Elementary School Terrific Kids for November, December and January include, back row from left, Connor Bell and Alex Rushing; in front, Timothy Lister, Connor Lowry and Zackery Everhart.



North Bay Elementary School Terrific Kids for November, December and January include, from left, Dara Lymuel, Madeline Aubert and Chace Lapniewski.



North Bay Elementary School Terrific Kids for November, December and January include, back row from left, Alex Flood, Miranda Adams and Kimberly Carver; in front, Bridgett Williams, Lindsey Loftin and Dylan Sellier.



North Bay Elementary School Terrific Kids for November, December and January include, back row from left, Kyle Derenbecker, Adele Hoffmann, Michelle Stringer, Ashleigh Nolan and Ashley Flood; in front, Chelsea Grisham, Sara Perniclaro, Dylan LeBlanc and Auston Torres.



North Bay Elementary School Terrific Kids for November, December and January include, back row from left, Amber Galloway and Ashley Woods; in front, Travis Wilson and Cecilia LoPiccolo.

Locals on USM Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE ECHO
Michelle Joanna Losilla of Pass Christian and Rebecca Santiago of Diamondhead are included on the Dean's List for the fall semester at the

University of Southern Mississippi. Dean's List scholars at USM must maintain a 3.25 grade-point average while taking a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Little Zion Spring Revival Mar. 20-22

Little Zion Baptist Church, 510 Central and Baker streets in Waveland, will hosts its Spring Revival March 20-22. Rev. Alex Wesco, Jr., pastor of the

Greater Emanuel Baptist Church of Picayune will be the evangelist. The revival will begin nightly at 7 with Bible study service beginning at 7:30.

Pass Elementary students celebrate RIF program

As part of the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) grant, every student at Pass Christian Elementary School had the opportunity March 1 to select a second book to keep.

Students viewed and chose books from a selection of seven heaping tables of books. Prior to selecting

their book, students were honored by guest readers - some in costume - who read Dr. Seuss books in recognition of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Guest readers included Tracy Goff, Joy Van Meerveld, Ranard Head, Alice Russell, Salley James and Cynthia Anderson.

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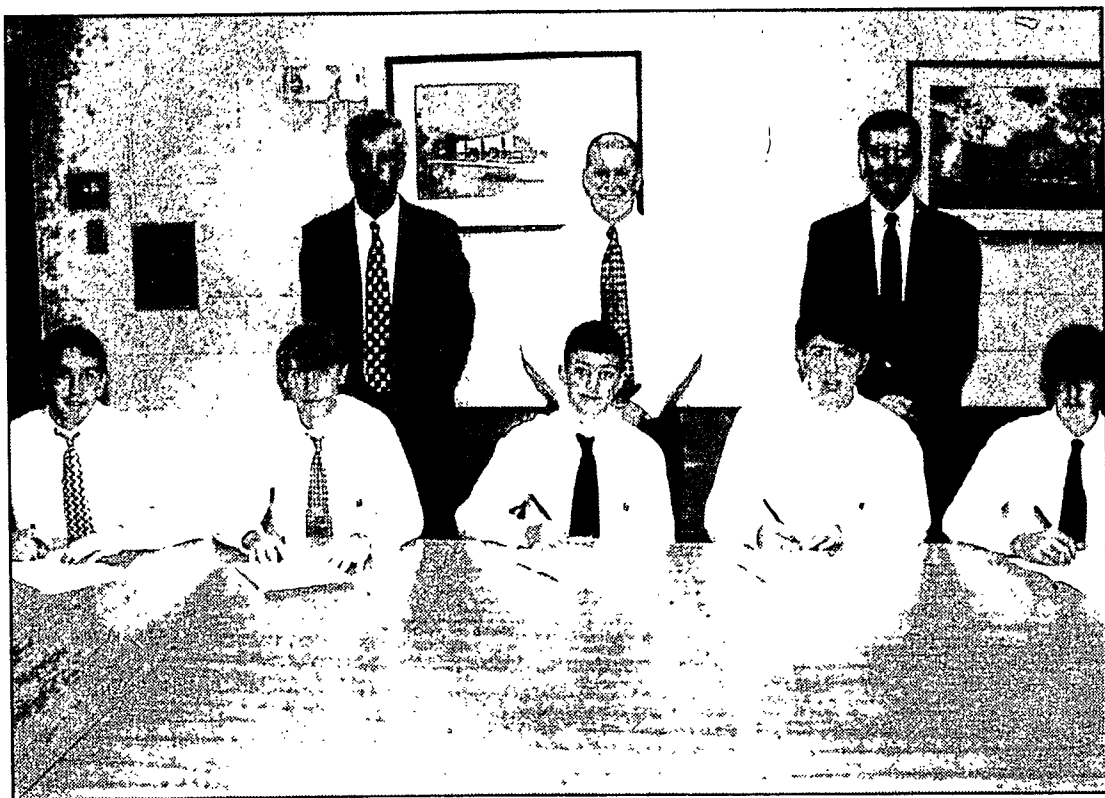
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SPORTS



Rocks at PRCC

The St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaw soccer team announced on Thursday, March 14, that five senior players from the Class 4A state runner-up signed soccer scholarships with the Pearl River Community College Wildcats soccer program. Stephen Kulikowski, Michael Leonard, Bryce Breland, Jeffrey Hansell, and Brennan Brooks all signed with PRCC.

SSC, Bay, Hancock players earn All-State honors

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

It has been quite some time since Hancock County can boast of so many talented young basketball players that earned post-season recognition. Hancock, Bay High, and SSC all got in on the action with the presentation of awards.

Most recently, six area players were named All-State following the conclusion of the State Basketball Tournament Championships in Jackson last week.

Hancock Lady Hawk Brooke Necaise received the honor for her performance in the state-quarterfinals. Necaise, a sophomore, led

Hancock to the division title, a runner-up slot in the South State tournament, and a quarter-final appearance in the state tournament.

Bay High Lady Tigers Kendra Reed, Stephanie Reed, and Carmen Labat all earned the All-State recognition. Kendra Reed, a freshman, was a key cog in the young Lady Tiger quintet that pushed Bay High to a runner-up finish in Class 4A. Stephanie Reed, a junior, was the team's point guard and most devastating outside shooter. Labat, a junior, is a player who do so many things for the Lady Tigers. Opposing defenses found it difficult to guard

the multi-dimensional Labat.

St. Stanislaus players Gabe Willis and Darius Acker each earned All-State status after the Rocks made an appearance in the state semi-finals last week.

Willis, a 5-4 junior point guard, was pure determination and hustle on the court for the undersized Rocks as they made their improbable to the state tournament. Acker, a 5-8 sophomore shooting guard, was a devastating outside shooter and defender for the Rocks in 2002.

All players earning All-State honors will return for the 2002-03 season.

Five SSC soccer players sign PRCC scholarships

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

The St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaw soccer team announced on Thursday, March 14, that five senior players from the Class 4A state runner-up signed soccer scholarships with the Pearl River Community College Wildcats soccer program.

Stephen Kulikowski, Michael Leonard, Bryce Breland, Jeffrey Hansell, and Brennan Brooks all signed with PRCC. The quintet of seniors helped lead SSC to one of its finest seasons as the Rocks advanced to the state title game against Pearl High School. The Rocks lost their bid for a third state title when Pearl downed the Rocks 4-1.

SSC head coach Andy Kivlan commented, "The impact of these five players has been from their freshman season when they worked their off the bench and into starting roles. Their contributions are the reason why we were in for the past few seasons."

Kulikowski, the son of Steve and Kathy Kulikowski, was the anchor of the SSC defense. Prior to the 2001-02 season, he was named an All-American by the National Association of Soccer Coaches. For two consecutive years, Kulikowski has helped lead an SSC defense that held opponents to an average of less than one goal per game.

Michael Leonard, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Leonard, contributed to the team's success on the offensive end of the field. Most of the time, opposing defenses overshifted and left Leonard either alone or one-on-one. Leonard took advantage of

those situations for the Rocks and powered the ball downfield as a midfielder.

Breland, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Breland, was a tremendous leader on the defense. More often than not, Breland was the player who drew the assignment of marking the opposing offense's playmaker. Consequently, he usually stopped the play before it started and led the transition from defense to offense for SSC.

Hansell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hansell, utilized his tremendous speed on the outside as a midfielder. He posed a great threat to opposing offenses and became a leader, offensively, for the Rocks on their run to the postseason.

Brooks, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Brooks, follows in a long line of soccer greats in his family. Both older brothers, Bart and Brian, were stars for the Rocks on the field back in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Brooks played midfield for the Rocks was a playmaker. He was usually responsible for getting the initial push upfield and finding the open man.

Brother Ronald Hingle, principal of St. Stanislaus College, stated, "For the past few years, these five seniors have led the Rock-a-

chaw soccer program to outstanding seasons. They truly are some of our finest students and athletes. We know that they will be a great asset to the PRCC program. And, we are confident that they will provide much excitement for their fans and will make SSC proud."

The quintet led the Rocks to a runner-up finish in Class 4A in 2002 and an overall record of 21-3-1. They were a part of four straight division titles and a South State title. Brooks maintains a role of Student Council President while Kulikowski and Breland also star for the SSC baseball team. Leonard also puts on his running shoes for the SSC Cross Country and Track and Field teams.

SSC head soccer coach Andy Kivlan recalled, "These five seniors will be greatly missed. Some of the younger guys will need to step up their game and fill their big shoes. It was a pleasure to coach these fine young men and we wish them the best in all their future endeavors."

The five Rocks will suit up for the Wildcats next season who are coached by 1992 SSC graduate Adam Breerwood.

Bay shows 'Strong' arm in 4-1 loss

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II
Staff Writer

The Bay High Tigers (6-6, 3-2) dropped a tough game to the visiting East Central Hornets 4-1 despite an extraordinary pitching performance from Brandon Strong.

Now, one may ask how a pitcher can have an extraordinary performance and still lose 4-1. Well, ask those at Tiger Stadium on Thursday, March 14, and they will tell you that it happened.

Strong pitched a complete game throwing 106 pitches. Out of those pitches, he recorded 72 strikes, 11 strikeouts, five hits, and only two walks. During the course of the game, Strong pitched 14 consecutive strikes. The offense for the Tigers had a tough time getting on track. The Tigers had seven reach base on three hits, three errors, and one walk.

Bay High head coach Alan Lumpkin stated, "This was a tough loss especially the way Brandon Strong was pitching. East Central is a very good team. What our team saw tonight was playoff baseball. East Central had solid pitching, very good defense, and timely hitting. I thought our defense was pretty good tonight. But, East Central got the timely hit and placed the ball where they needed to. If we could have had the timely hits and had a few more baserunners, we might have been able to put some pressure on East Central. It would have been a different game with a little more pressure. We will get the opportunity to see them again. We are still

learning how to win. We had just one senior last season. And, we have just one this year. So, we are a young team so to speak. The team is building confidence and making very good strides. When we make that next step, some good things will happen for us. But, tonight, Brandon Strong showed how far he has come with his mental approach to the game. He pitched a very solid game."

The Hornets struck first with a homerun by Dustin Matthews in the first inning. Brandon Slade got the Tigers first hit of the game in the bottom of the third inning; however, he was stranded on the base paths.

In the fourth inning, the Hornets got a double to rightfield on a 3-2 pitch from Jacob Wisenhunt. He was knocked in by Jeremy Burleson on the next at bat to make the score 2-0.

A walk and an error sent Skip Ladner and Jeremy Shiyu to the base paths for the Tigers in the fifth inning. But, they were

stranded when the Hornet shortstop made a heads up play on a flyout and doubled up Shiyu at first base.

The sixth inning saw the Hornets add two insurance runs to the scoreboard. East Central orchestrated a two-out rally to score Jeremy Smith and Wisenhunt who reached base on walks. Burleson doubled both runners home on a shot off the centerfield wall to make the score 4-0.

The Tigers provided some excitement in the seventh inning when B.J. Corr reached on an error and David Buckley tallied a single to leftfield. Shiyu tallied the Tigers only RBI on a fielder's choice that allowed Corr to score and make the final tally of 4-1.

During the past week, several area teams hit the diamond. St. Stanislaus collected two wins on March 9. The Rocks defeated the Pass Christian Pirates 5-3 and followed that afternoon with a 4-2 win over McGill-Toolen of Mobile.

In the game against the Pirates, Stephen

Kulikowski tallied 2 hits while brother, Tim Kulikowski, got the win on the mound with 10 strikeouts.

In the second game against McGill-Toolen, Justin Lowery got the win on the mound for the Rocks. Bryce Breland and Tim Kulikowski each had two hits in the contest.

Hancock also got a win to improve to 4-6 overall during the past week. The Hawks defeated Gautier 5-3 in a non-division game.

James Moran got the win for the Hawks as he struck out eight batters and Brad McGlade stroked a homerun in the contest.

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SPORTS

BWYC team wins 2002 Sunfish Championship in Tampa Bay

DAVIS ISLAND YACHT CLUB, TAMPA, FL—Bay-Waveland Yacht Club's Todd Edwards, Kippy Chamberlain, Bishop Stieffel and Clinton Edwards, competed in the National Sunfish Team Racing Championship, which had been won by the Florida team every year since the championship was introduced in 1995.

Chamberlain, who recently graduated from the College of Charleston and sailed on CoC's sailing team, receiving All American Sailor status, has a lot of team racing experience and spent two weekends prior to the championship practicing with and coaching the rest of his team. The practice paid off substantially when the Gulf Coast team "The Blue

Crabs" defeated the Florida team handily after having finished runner-up every other time they competed in the event.

The format for the team race is four boats on a team and each team sails against every other team once in a match race. The team with the fewest losses wins the championship. Seven teams from four different countries entered in the event.

Team Florida was loaded, with five World Championships and three North American Championships between Malcolm Smith of Bermuda, Donny Martinborough of Bahamas, Joe Blouin of Tampa and Patrick Wilson of Charleston. Early in the event, it was clear that the Florida team would be

tough, as they defeated every team they faced, however, the Gulf Coast team was recording 1,2,3,4 finishes in every race.

Team Florida proved that they could be beaten though, when a second team of all Juniors from BWYC (Andrew Eagan, Phillip Tanner, Erik Tanner and John Chapoton) gave Florida a scare, almost winning the race.

When Florida and Gulf Coast were up, it was evident that this race would be for the title. Chamberlain got in trouble early and had to sail a penalty turn at the start, falling behind, but Joe Blouin was over early and had to restart. Todd got into an early lead and was able to control the second place boat while Clinton and Bishop mixed things up

in the middle of the pack, slowing the other team down a bit enabling Kippy, with great boat speed, to get back in the race.

On the second beat, something became stunningly evident for the Florida team - they had not been practicing in light air like BWYC had. It seemed that there wasn't much they could do to match our light air boat speed and handling and once Kippy got by two of their boats, the third was relatively easy while Clinton and Bishop tag team covered him.

Team Gulf Coast finished 1,3,4,5 in the race, taking the Championship. Team Florida finished second with one loss and the BWYC Junior team finished third with only two losses.

A third team from BWYC participated but with only three boats, since one of the trailers did not arrive on time. Paul Keith, Alex Boudreaux and Fred Eagan competed in the team racing and had they had a fourth boat, they could have easily finished fifth in the Team Racing.

Edwards wins Midwinters

Special to the Echo
Davis Island Yacht Club Tampa, FL

Bay-Waveland Yacht Club's Todd Edwards won his second Sunfish Midwinter Championship in four years, besting a fleet of eighty-eight sailors from six different countries in a five-race regatta hosted by Davis Island Yacht Club. Edwards was joined by eighteen other sailors from the Gulf Coast area, and of the group, nine finished in the top twenty.

The Sunfish is a fourteen foot lateen rigged single-handed dinghy that was introduced on the Gulf Coast in the early sixties and by no coincidence, Edwards' father, James Edwards, was instrumental in getting the class started racing. The Sunfish has been one of the most popular dinghies in the world almost since its inception and has been raced competitively on the coast since the mid-sixties.

A Gulfport native, Edwards has been racing Sunfish since he was eight years old and has competed in six World Championships, finishing as high as fifth in 1998. He has finished in the top ten almost every time he's sailed in the North American Championships and he wins many regattas at the local level as well.

BWYC's Andrew Eagan finished nineteenth overall and was the second place Junior in the regatta. Anne Swann Edwards was top ten overall going into the last race, but when she got caught up on the wrong side of a huge filling oscillation, she dropped back to sixty-first in the race and out of the top ten. Anne finished twenty-first overall and third Female.

In the Midget fleet (under fourteen years), Fred Eagan took top honors, followed by Alex Boudreaux and Paul Keith, all from BWYC. The three sailed

and finished every race in the Championship including the two races Saturday in 12-16 knots.

Chase boats were on location thanks to Larry Keith and Phil Tanner with spectators and support Rick Eagan, Carolynne Tanner and Terri Hamilton. These were extremely helpful in that they carried spare parts and refreshments and took pictures of the event.

Other Gulf Coast sailors included: Hank Saurage - 7th, Peter Wuescher - 9th, Tom Whitehurst - 10th, Ash Beatty - 11th, Kippy Chamberlain - 13th, Bishop Stieffel - 14th, Clinton Edwards - 16th, Ryan Hamilton - 30th, Melissa Chapoton - 34th, Ann Edwards - 48th, John Chapoton - 57th, Fred Eagan - 59th, Alex Boudreaux - 61st, Erik Tanner - 66th, Lauren Whitehurst - 67th, Paul Keith - 71st and Phillip Tanner - 84th.

Alumni group sponsors Hancock County Day at PRCC doubleheader

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS
Publisher Emeritus

Pearl River Community College's doubleheader baseball game against Gulf Coast Community College will be Hancock County Day, according to Frank Ladner, Hancock PRCC Alumni president.

The Wildcats are 12-3 for the season under head coach Jay Artigues of Bay St. Louis in his first season at Pearl River Community College.

The first game of the doubleheader is set to begin on Wednesday, March 20, 4

p.m. at Wildcat Field.

Ladner reports that he, Neil Favre and Ronnie Artigues, all members of the Hancock PRCC Alumni Association, will have a fund raiser at the game for the baseball team.

The trio will offer Filé Gumbo, potato salad and French bread during the game with proceeds going to the baseball team, which has several members from Hancock County. The Wildcats' new baseball coach is also an alumnus of PRCC.

Ladner said, "We want to

invite all Hancock Alumni and supports of PRCC to come out and support the Wildcats in their games against Gulf Coast Community College."

The Hancock County PRCC Alumni Association was formed last year and its main goal is to provide several scholarships to Hancock County graduating seniors to the community college.

For further information on the Hancock PRCC Alumni Association, call Ladner at 467-7130.

Bay High 3-0 in tennis

The Bay High Tigers have opened the 2002 tennis season with three straight wins.

On March 7, Bay High downed East Central 4-1. In boys singles, Gabe Noyse beat Win Williams 6-0, 6-1; Stephanie Reed took Taylor Montgomery 6-4, 6-2 in girls singles; Daniel Stanton and Johnny Hozey fell to Shane Mason and Justin Godleiasky 6-7, 0-6 in boys doubles; in girls doubles, Katy Benvenutti and Kelly Calahan won 6-3, 6-2; and in mixed doubles, Jacqueline Fouasanon and

Marquez Singleton won 6-6, 6-0.

Pass Christian lost to Bay High 4-1 on March 11. In that contest, Gabe Noyse best Dustin Savoie 6-0, 6-1 in boys singles; in girls singles, Stephanie Reed defeated Amanda Arnold 6-2, 6-2; in boys doubles, Daniel Stanton and Johnny Hozey lost to Brock Hayden and Phillip Stevens 2-6, 6-1, 4-6; in girls doubles, Katy Benvenutti and Kelly Calahan downed Kathryn Kelly and Lauren Fam 6-3, 6-1; and in mixed doubles, Marquez Singleton and

Jacqueline Fouasanon shutout Dominick Dedeaux and Plahe Dedeaux 6-0, 6-0.

Bay High swept Gautier 5-0 on March 14. Gabe Noyse won 7-5, 6-1; Stephanie Reed won 6-0, 6-1; Daniel Stanton and Johnny Hozey took their match 6-4, 7-6; Kelly Calahan and Katy Benvenutti blanked their opponents 6-0, 6-0; and Jacqueline Fouasanon and Marquez Singleton won 6-1, 6-0.

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Wanda Pillault and Chaunce Woodmansee.



Bernadine Perniclaro, Rainee Davis, and Roger Davis.



Danielle Gladney, TeShawn Green, Tammy Green, Brenda Green, Maih Green, and Michelle Robinson.



These grandparents were celebrating an anniversary and their grandson, Chad Broadhead gave them corsages to wear to the luncheon. Pictured from left are Herbie Starr, Chad Broadhead, Joan Starr.

"It was a pleasure for Second Street Elementary to share lunch with students and their grandparents last week. The children were very proud to have their grandparents visit. Our cafeteria ladies prepared a great coast gumbo for the day. Bay St. Louis and Waveland communities cherish the extended families which children need to establish values important to education and America.

"One grandmother, Wanda Pillault, told me that her grandchildren Chaunce Woodmansee and Kimberly Gibson not only brought her the invitation that Barbara Davis, Parent Center coordinator, sent home; but emailed her and telephoned her to make sure she was remembering and planning to attend. She had to stay for two lunch periods because both insisted that she join them.

"It is indeed fortunate for Rainee Davis to have lunch with mom's mother and dad's father, grandparents from both sides of the family. Several students also invited special friends (aunts and uncles) to join the grandparents for lunch."

— Barbara Cropp

Jeannie Klein named Hancock Schools' Parent of the Year

Jeannie Klein of Lakeshore has been selected Hancock County School District's Parent of the Year for the 2001-2002 school year. She is the wife of Steve Klein and mother of two children, Sydney and Nathan.

Klein, a full-time employee of the Hancock School District, devotes her spare time to volunteering at Gulfview Elementary through serving as secretary of the Parent Teacher Community Organization (PTCO) for the past two years.

She has been instrumental in organizing several school functions such as the Fall Festival and the Secret Santa Shop.

In addition, through her volunteer efforts, funds have been raised to help finance Gulfview's play-

ground equipment and other student activities.

Most recently, Klein has helped plan, organize, and implement a PTCO program aimed to stimulate student attendance. By offering small treats, such as popcorn parties and ice cream socials for students with outstanding attendance, Gulfview has boosted its average daily attendance to 96% for several months this school year.

This concern for children has truly enriched the Hancock County School District and provided Klein such a well-deserved recognition as district parent of the year. She will represent the Hancock County School District in the statewide selection of one Parent of the Year sponsored by the Mississippi State Department of Education.

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Statement on abuse by Bishop Rodi

As Bishop, I am pledging to you, the people of the Diocese of Biloxi, that there will be no tolerance of abuse of minors on the part of those who serve the Church. It is my hope that our revised diocesan policy will ensure this pledge.

Our Diocese has had a written policy for some time.

The necessity of such a policy has been made obvious during the recent scandals within our Church that have received national attention.

Over the past several months I have examined our policy, have sought the advice of others, and have made changes which I think will make our policy more effective. I have decided to publish our policy so that all may know of its existence and content.

I have also directed all pastors, principals, and office directors to make certain that all employees and volunteers receive an individual copy as well.

This policy will be followed in order to protect the innocent and to provide appropriate care for any victim of abuse. The Diocese will comply with all laws.

It is also essential to our calling as followers of Jesus Christ to seek to do all we can so that our actions also are in harmony with the Gospel message we proclaim and the teachings of the Church we champion.

I realize that abuse of minors is not limited to any one group. It is found in every ethnic, racial, religious, regional and economic group. Any abuse causes deep damage.

The suffering is intense, and the need for healing is vital. However, it is more despicable when it is perpetrated by one who is serving in the ministry of the Church, especially a mem-

ber of the clergy.

It is a violation of a sacred trust and a violation of our commitment to be faithful followers of the Lord. I am most embarrassed and saddened by the recent reports of abuse committed by fellow clerics.

As your Bishop, I am determined to do everything within my power to make certain that the Church is a safe place for our youth. Such misconduct causes great damage.

Young people may feel confused by these reports. Good Catholics can have serious misgivings about involvement in the Church or the fostering of vocations. I pray that these scandals will not weaken God's gift of faith in us.

Please do not allow the sinful human dimension of the Church to obscure the divine presence of the Risen Lord and His saving mission in our midst.

I will need assistance in addressing allegations of abuse of minors. As stated in the policy, I will rely upon the members of the Diocesan staff.

I will also rely upon the advice of a seven-member committee, only one of whom is employed by the Church, to guide me in these matters.

I am very grateful to the members of the committee for agreeing to serve in this capacity. They will greatly assist in making good decisions.

At the same time we will continue efforts to educate Church employees and volunteers regarding appropriate behavior with young people.

Previous meetings were held for all priests. I will soon meet with all priests and deacons to further discuss ministry to and with youth.

All high school teachers

gathered two weeks ago for such a presentation. The Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, the diocesan attorney, and I gave a presentation which I am confident will assist teachers in better understanding the correct manner to minister to and with young persons.

A similar meeting has been scheduled with all parish youth ministers. Meetings will be scheduled with all elementary teachers.

I wish to thank to all those who serve in the ministry of the Church. We are blessed to have outstanding priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers and laypersons who have dedicated themselves to making the love of God visible in our midst.

Our lives would be impoverished by their absence. Our lives are enriched by their presence. I regret that a few have betrayed the trust which has been placed in them. This embarrasses and pains all of us.

But I pray these few will not discourage the vast majority of you who continue to make manifest in your life the love of God and neighbor through ministry in the Church. Please know of my gratitude and the gratitude of the people of our Diocese.

As we prepare to celebrate the great event of our salvation at Easter, we remember that the Lord has promised new life. As a Church, we are committed to eliminating and preventing any abuse of youths.

These present scandals have been most painful and shocking. However, relying upon the powerful love of God, I am confident that we will emerge from this dark episode as a Church even stronger in our commitment to follow the Lord.

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COMMUNITY

pg 1B

Geraniums make a dramatic return

SOUTHERN GARDENING
BY NORMAN WINTER
MSU Horticulturist
Central Mississippi
Research & Extension
Center

The past couple of years have proven something to me; geraniums are back! Perhaps they have not recaptured the flower border, but they have taken over the front porch and perhaps the patio.

Last year, there were large containers of geraniums welcoming visitors to front doors everywhere I looked. Whether the container was all geraniums or mixed with other spring bloomers, you have to admit these are showy flowers that can be admired from a great distance.

Recently, I visited some of our Mississippi growers and have seen what will be appearing in the retail market this year.

One series that caught my eye was the Exotica. Here you will find leaves that may be maple-shaped or have creamy variegation. You also will find flowers that are rose form and apple blossom in color.

Another series called the Brocades have not only cream and green variegated leaves but also a dash of red or orange that matches the bloom on top - like a designer geranium. But I can't call it that since there is a Designer series known to be one of the best landscape performers. Some of the most intensely colored blossoms are in this series.

At the California Pack Trials last year, the Showcase series with its Deep Scarlet and Bright Cherry would be almost guaranteed to bring you back to geraniums.

Geraniums (Pelargonium x hortorum) ideal site in Mississippi would be full sun until just past noon then a little protection in afternoon shade. You will find success with geraniums with this light coupled with a well-drained, fertile soil.

To prepare your soil, loosen it 8 to 12 inches deep, and add 2 to 3 inches of organic matter. Add about one pound of 12-6-6-fertilizer per 100 square feet and rake the soil smooth.

Geraniums are heavy feeders and many gardeners do not apply enough fertilizer to meet the plants' nutrient needs.

We can feed every two weeks with a dilute, water-soluble fertilizer like a 20-20-20, or apply a granular, controlled-released fertilizer every four to six weeks. When it is time to deadhead old flowers, don't just clip the cluster. Pinch or break off the flower stalk at the base. Beyond that requirement, deciding on how you will use them is all that is left. I like Ivy geraniums (Pelargonium pelatum), but no one should expect them to be New Gold lantana and bloom through August. Still, they will provide weeks of unparalleled beauty in a hanging basket.

One other group overlooked and underused is the scented geraniums. There are several species of these such as P. odoratissimum apple, P. crispum lemon and P. nervosum lime.

Child's Play



Nicole, a special Ed student from East Hancock Elementary, visits the Toy Library and Technology Learning Center at the University of Southern Mississippi at Long Beach during a class field trip. The center offers adaptive devices for learning and play for persons with disabilities at no charge.

Echo staff photos by Bennie Shallbetter



Cody, a special education student at East Hancock Elementary, enjoys play at the Toy Library.

Toy Library helping Hancock's children

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

Nestled among the beautiful oaks on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast campus in Long Beach is a very special place.

The Toy Library and Technology Learning Center offers fun, laughter and the hope of accomplishment to special children, children with disabilities.

It allows them to do what every child is entitled to do

- play, learn, and progress toward a more hopeful future. The center also offers adaptive fishing equipment, flotation devices and beach wheel chairs to adults and children with disabilities.

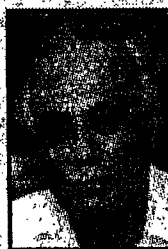
The Toy Library is just what the name implies, a place where parents, teachers, and individuals may go, experiment with and check out adaptive play and learning equipment, without hav-

LIBRARY--PAGE 5B

'The roar of the lion and the snarl of the cat'

I have written in the past of the many amazing (to me) attributes of Holly, our black cat; his remarkable agility to climb great heights and leap large spaces, the complete darkness of his blackness, his ethereally aloofness and his complete disdain of worldly contacts except those of his own choosing.

Other cat owners have told me that these are normal rather than abnormal traits. I don't believe this. I feel that Holly is somehow exceptional, a sort of lion's lion in the world of cats. I secretly feel proud when I see him stroll with ill-concealed dark majesty across the lawn intent on



Views From a Front Porch

by Paul Estronza La Violette
laviolette@mail.datasync.com

destroying some grasshopper or lizard.

However, I have found that Holly is not as perfect as I perhaps wish. He is flawed in the one attribute that up till now I expected all cats to have, that is a respectable "meow", an audible "meow", a "meow" you can hear and quake in fear of. A "meow" that proclaims to all that hear it that here is a cat!

I think that that is a reasonable assumption to make on my part and don't feel that I am expecting any gargantuan effort by Holly to give it to me. Holly and I have had our small differences it's true, but there are times when I want the pride I feel in him to manifest itself so that others may share it. I want for example for those times when he walks into

the room, I want people to sit up and know he is there. On these occasions, I think a simple lionlike roar would be appropriate.

So, shortly after we got Holly, I was completely surprised to find that such a "meow" of such splendor in Holly's case is not possible. I found that far from it that his "meow", if one can call it that is defective.

The only noise I hear from him is a mixture of sound that resembles the squeak of a distant screen door and the noise made by someone in the next office turning in their swivel chair. If a "meow" is there, it's not what one would reasonably expect.

What I hear comes out as a rather startling: Mew!

Now I know that this may not seem important. Certainly not as earth shaking news such as the eventual ending of the universe, the realization that the sun is raising the earth's temperature one tenth of a degree Celsius each year or the fact they haven't found Jimmy Hoffa's body. But it does bother me.

Stella, on the other hand, thinks the diminutive squeak that Holly makes is cute.

She claims that I am making a big to do over

VIEWS--PAGE 5B

What's for Lunch?

March 18-22

Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District Chef Salad, Milk and Condiments served daily

BREAKFAST
Monday: Pancake and Sausage Stick, Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Tuesday: Sausage and Biscuit, Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Wednesday: Grits and Hashbrowns, Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Thursday: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Cereal, Toast, Fruit Juice

Friday: Cinnamon-Raisin Biscuit, Cereal, Toast, Juice

LUNCH

Monday: Stromboli, BBQ Pork on Bun, Black-eyed Peas, Buttered Corn, Frozen Fruit Juice Bar, Fresh Fruit Bowl, Devil's Food Delight

Tuesday: Southern Fried Chicken, Bean Burrito, Broccoli and Rice Casserole, Buttered Carrots, Chilled Peach Slices, Fresh Fruit Bowl, Yeast Roll

Wednesday: Chicken Pot Pie, Hamburger with Trimmings, Turnip Greens, Cajun Fries, Fruit Cocktail, Pineapple Tidbits, Yeast Roll, Jell-O with Whipped Topping

Thursday: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Chili Dog, Buttered Corn, Garden Salad with Dressing, Mandarin Fruit Cup, Orange Smiles, Chocolate Pudding, Crackers, Yeast Roll

Friday: Chicken

Nuggets, Tuna Salad, Creamed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Peas, Frozen Fruit Juice Bar, Fresh Fruit Bowl, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Yeast Roll

Hancock

North Central

Gulfview

Charles B. Murphy and East Hancock Elementary Schools

Served daily:
Bread, Dessert, Milk and Condiments

BREAKFAST
Monday: Cereal with Toast or Chicken Pattie Biscuit, Juice

Tuesday: Cereal with Toast or Pancake Pup, Juice

Wednesday: Cereal with Toast or Sausage Biscuit, Juice

Thursday: Cereal with Toast or Breakfast Pizza, Juice

Friday: Cereal with Toast or Grilled Cheese, Juice

LUNCH

Monday: Red Beans and Rice with Sausage, Corn Dog Nuggets, Oven Fries, Turnip Greens, Coleslaw, Peaches, Fruit Juice, Cornbread, Chocolate Pudding

Tuesday: Chicken Gumbo, Sloppy Joe, French Fries, Black-eyed Peas, Tossed Salad, Hot Cinnamon Apples, Fruit Juice, Rolls, Cookies

Wednesday: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Cheeseburger, Parslied Potatoes, Green Peas, Tossed Salad, Chilled Pears, Fruit Juice, Garlic Yeast Rolls, Crackers, Jell-O

Thursday: BBQ

Chicken, Meatball Hot Pocket, Mashed Potatoes with Cheese, Baked Beans, Confetti Coleslaw, Peach Cup, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Crackers, Fruit Crisp

Friday:

Chicken-Sausage Jambalaya, Cheese Pizza, Oven Fries, Steamed Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Yeast Rolls, Vanilla Pudding

Hancock High

and Middle Schools

Served daily:

Chef Salad, Bread,

Dessert, Milk

and Condiments

LUNCH

Monday: Red Beans and Rice with Sausage, Corn Dog Nuggets, Pizza, Oven Fries, Turnip Greens, Coleslaw, Peaches, Fruit Juice, Cornbread, Chocolate Pudding

Tuesday: Chicken Gumbo, Sloppy Joe, French Fries, Black-eyed Peas, Tossed Salad, Hot Cinnamon Apples, Fruit Juice, Rolls, Cookies

Wednesday: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Cheeseburger, Parslied Potatoes, Green Peas, Tossed Salad, Chilled Pears, Fruit Juice, Garlic Yeast Rolls, Crackers, Jell-O

Thursday: BBQ Chicken, Meatball Hot Pocket, Mashed Potatoes with Cheese, Baked Beans, Confetti Coleslaw, Peach Cup, Fruit Juice, Yeast Roll, Crackers, Fruit Crisp

Friday: Chicken-Sausage Jambalaya, Ham

and Cheese Poboy, Cheese Pizza, Oven Fries, Steamed Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Yeast Rolls, Vanilla Pudding

Bay Catholic

Elementary

School

BREAKFAST

Monday: Cinnamon-Raisin Biscuit, Juice, Milk

Tuesday: Sausage-Egg Biscuit, Juice, Milk

Wednesday: Pancake and Sausage on Stick, Juice, Milk

Thursday: Waffle Stick, Juice, Milk

Friday: Donut, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Milk or Juice served with every meal
Monday: Breaded Chicken Sandwich or Chef's Salad, French Fries or Green Beans, Applesauce or Pineapple

Tuesday: Hot dog with Chili or Chef's Salad, Baked Beans or French Fries, Peaches or Pears

Wednesday: Pork Roast with Gravy or Chef's Salad, Mashed Potatoes or Peas, Strawberries or Oranges, Roll

Thursday: Chicken Salad on Bun or Chef's Salad, Pickle or Side Salad, Pineapple or Applesauce

Friday: Cheese Pizza or Garden Salad, Mixed Veggies or Parslied Potatoes, Apple Slices or Fruit Cocktail

All menus subject to change.

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Callie McNally and Megan Sando participate in tamping down the soil at the base of the oak sapling.



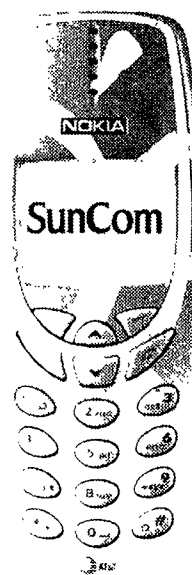
Megan Sando, Callie McNally and Alexandria Hoang gain first-hand knowledge about the layers of soil.

St. Paul Catholic receives oak

Members of the Forestry Commission planted an oak tree at St. Paul Catholic School.

Migliore's third grade had hands-on experience planting the tree on the school playground.

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Weddings and Engagements



Mr. and Mrs. Lance Grogg

Grogg-Elmer are wed

Ashley Ann Elmer and Lance Christopher Grogg, both of Bay Saint Louis, were united in marriage December 29, 2001, at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis. Father Mike Austin officiated.

The bride's mother is Ms. Brenda Elmer of Gulfport. The bride's grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Edwin and Augusta Hebert of Biloxi, and the late Mr. and Mrs. John and Emeline Elmer of Gulfport.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman and Beverly Grogg of Crestview, Florida, and the groom's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Louis and Helen Decell of Bay St. Louis, Ms. Lola Grogg of Kansas, and the late Dan B. Murphy.

Given in marriage by Mr. Rickey Redden, the bride was attended by matron of honor Kelli Elmer Spiehler, sister of the bride, and maid of honor Sheilah Elmer, sister of the bride, both of Gulfport.

Bridesmaids were Toni Grogg of Florida, sister of the groom, Jami Sizelove of Diamondhead, Melanie Whitaker of McComb, Amanda Brown Bryant of Tennessee, and Linda Davis of Bay St. Louis.

The junior bridesmaids were Natalie Warner of Gulfport, niece of the bride, Brittany Kilcrease of Florida, niece of the groom, and Kayleigh Davis of Bay St. Louis.

Flower girl was Rainee Davis of Bay St. Louis, and ring bearers were Skye Spiehler of Gulfport, nephew of the bride, and Dustin Davis of Bay St. Louis.

For her special day the bride selected a Mon Cheri ivory Dulciana satin gown adorned in rum-pink Italian silk. The bodice was a

princess-cut silhouette gown that included both a shimmering full skirt accented with Alencon lace and a semi-cathedral-length train delicately garnished with beadwork that distinctively captured the light of the cathedral church.

The bodice was also embellished in rum-pink Italian silk and hand-beaded with seed pearls and iridescent cup sequins. In addition, the bride wore an elegant Juliet headpiece covered in pearls, trimmed in dainty rum-pink rolled satin roses, and topped with three tiers of ivory tulle that draped around her shoulders and extended down by her waist.

The bride accessorized her ensemble with elbow-length ivory satin gloves cuffed in rum-pink Italian silk enriched with sparkling sequins and pearls.

Best man was Mr. Norman L. Grogg of Florida, father of the groom. Groomsmen included Daniel Murphy, Benny Murphy, Raleigh Murphy, Scott Davis, Martin Perniciaro, Greg Loftin, all of Bay St. Louis, Craig Dedeaux of Long Beach, Joey Elmer and Jordan Elmer both of Gulfport, nephews of the bride and Brandon Grogg of Florida, nephew of the groom.

Ushers were Doug Meadows and Teddy Necaise of Bay St. Louis; Jerry Cook of Hattiesburg, and Brett Ladner of Louisiana.

Organist Ed Grotkowski and vocalist Nicole Murphy provided nuptial selections with special music by trumpeter Andrew Baldree, Natalie Warner, Rocky Murphy, and Casey Favre did special scripture readings.

The couple will reside in Bay St. Louis.

Jaudon-Bosch are engaged

Mr. and Mrs. William Paul Jaudon of Waveland announce the engagement of their daughter, Claire Elizabeth Jaudon, to Mr. Brian Gannon Bosch.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Wood of Indianola, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Marszalek of Greenwood, and the late Mr. William Thomas Jaudon of Aberdeen.

Miss Jaudon is a graduate of Indianola Academy and attended Mississippi State University where she was a member of the Kappa Delta social sorority. She received a bachelor of science degree in physical therapy from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

She is a physical therapist in outpatient orthopedics at the Medical



Claire Jaudon

University of South Carolina and an aerobic conditioning instructor for the university's Wellness Center in Charleston, S. C.

Mr. Bosch is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Richard Wulf of Atlanta, Ga., and Dr. and Mrs. Charles William Bosch of Helena, Ark.

He is the grandson of

Mrs. Alice Gatchell and the late Mr. Harvey Eldon Gatchell of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bosch.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Lovett School of Atlanta and the University of Georgia where he received a bachelor of science degree in ecology.

While attending the University of Georgia, he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. Mr. Bosch is a medical sales specialist.

The couple will exchange vows in a beachside ceremony at a private home on Beach Boulevard in Waveland at 6:30 p.m. April 27, 2002.



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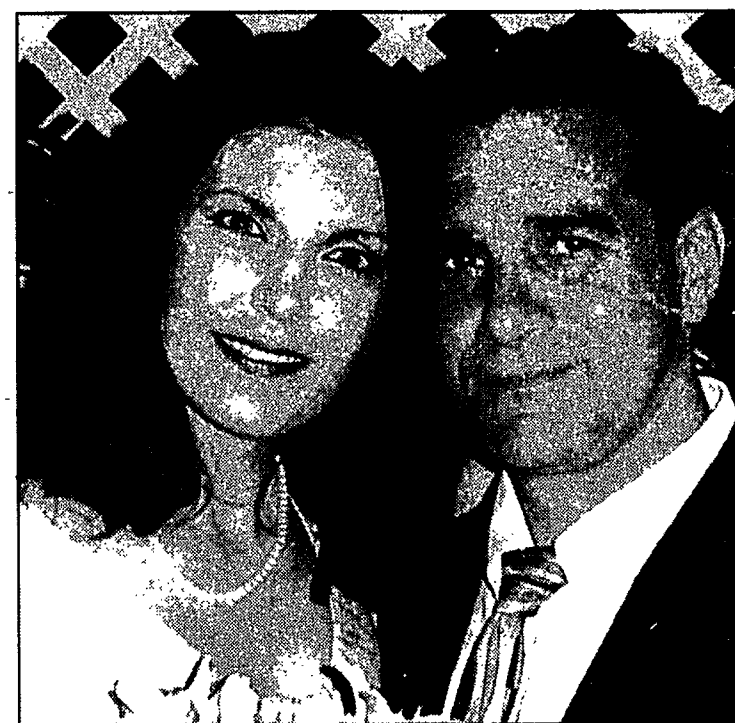
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ripp Sr.

De la Oliva, Ripp marry

Janet Marie De la Oliva of Foley, Ala. and Captain Thomas Louis Ripp Sr. of M/Y Christina, were united in marriage February 28, 2002 in a private evening ceremony at Seacoast Chapel in Biloxi with the couple's two adult children, Thomas Ripp Jr. and Frank Ripp, attending.

The Rev. Al Olech officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Frank and Margaret De la Oliva of Louisiana.

Capt. Ripp is the son of Caroline Ripp of Louisiana and the late Roderic Ripp.

The couple will reside in Foley, Ala.

Gulf Coast Writers meet

The Gulf Coast Writers Assn. will hold its general meeting at Barnes & Noble, Crossroads Mall, Gulfport, Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

Guest speakers Ernest and Pat Pinson of the Walter Anderson Museum will talk about Anderson's writings.

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Take Off Pounds Sensibly

CHAPTER 307
TOPS MS 307, Bay St. Louis, met Feb. 20 at the Coastal Wellness and Fitness Center with 10 members present.

Ann was the week's best loser. Paula was top KOPS, and Ann received the incentive award.

The next meeting was Feb. 27 with eight members present.

Jenny was the week's

best loser with Paula top KOPS and Jenny receiving the incentive award.

The chapter meets every Wednesday at the Coastal Wellness and Fitness Center, 524 St. John Street in Bay St. Louis.

Weigh-ins are 4:30-5 p.m. with the meeting following.

Anyone interested in losing weight is welcome to attend meetings. Call Paula at 467-0420.

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Entertainment

Earth Fest kicks off at Audubon Zoo

SPECIAL TO THE ECHO

Earth Fest at Audubon Zoo celebrates the arrival of spring with the opening of Audubon Zoo's new Garden Shop.

The Garden Shop, located at the front arrival plaza, opens to the public for the first time during Earth Fest, March 23 and 24.

The shop features unique and engaging garden decorations and tools, along with plants grown at Audubon Zoo's greenhouse.

This is the first time Audubon Zoo has offered plants for sale to visitors.

Other features of Earth Fest 2002 include the "Eat a Bug Tent," where visitors

are invited to sample mealworm springrolls, cricket crawlins and chocolate chirp cookies.

Insects are a cheap and plentiful food source for a number of populations around the world.

Earth Fest entertainment has been confirmed. On Saturday, March 23, Urban Gypsies take the stage at 1:30. Chee Wheez performs at 3:30. On Sunday, March 24, at 1:30 p.m., Adam's Attic performs, followed by Anders Osborne to close out the festival at 3:30. Ronald McDonald will take the stage on Sunday as well.

Over the past several

years, Earth Fest has become a great place to check out local and regional folk artists.

This year, Gallery Inferno's Michelle Gaudet and K. G. Breisacher will display and sell hand-cast objects made from recycled glass.

Kim Clayton returns with dumpster-diver inspired offerings which have been transformed from trash to treasures.

All the standard Earth Fest favorites are back as well, including "Hug A Tree," Litter Critters, McDonald's Earth Quest Game and environmental exhibitors eager to chat

with visitors about the many ways they can help save the planet.

Audubon Zoo, a facility of Audubon Nature Institute, is open from 9:30 - 6:00. Admission to Earth Fest is included in standard admission to the Zoo, which is \$9 for adults, \$4.75 for children and \$5.75 for seniors.

Audubon Zoo members always receive free admission. Earth Fest 2002 is sponsored by Southwest Airlines, McDonald's, and Maagig 101.9.

For details phone toll free 1-866-ITS-A-ZOO (1-866-487-2966) or visit Audubon's website at www.auduboninstitute.org.



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The musical group Chicago brings its platinum-record selling act to the Beau Rivage Theatre on April 6 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$49.95 plus tax. Beau Rivage Ticket Office (888) 566-7469. Beau Rivage Room Reservations: (888) 567-6667.

Louisiana Nature Center sets Summer Camp registration

Children ages 4 through 12 are invited to discover adventure and excitement every week while making new friends at the Louisiana Nature Center's Summer Camp 2002.

"Join us as we take nature hikes, see live animal presentations, create works of art and explore the great outdoors," a spokesman said.

The Summer Camp's activities will be held on 86 acres of unique natural surroundings at the Louisiana Nature Center, located off of Read Blvd. in Joe Brown Memorial Park.

Camps will be divided into different age groups and titles, which will allow fun for everyone.

Each week-long session will include a planetarium show, hands on activities, interactive games, Interpretive Center visit, art and craft supplies, and great outdoor adventures.

The Louisiana Nature Center's Summer Camp 2002's weekly themes emphasize discovery, experimentation, critical think-

ing, and developmental skills through group activities, games and craft.

Older kids are presented with an opportunity to dive into the ocean as we examine the world under the waves, explore the fierce side of nature through tornadoes, tsunami, and lightning, while learning the basic skills any wilderness wanderer needs to know.

Younger campers can take a peek at how many ladybugs fit on a leaf, investigate the way people and animals get from here to there, go through the animal alphabet, examine the science of flight as animals, machines, and other flying favorites take wing, and more.

Sessions begin June 10. Brochures containing specific camp dates and registration information are available. Contact the Louisiana Nature Center's Education Department for more information by calling (504) 378-4116 or (504) 378-4124 or by e-mailing LNCeducation@auduboninstitute.org.

Natchez Powwow set

Traditional Native American dancing, foods, and crafts will be found in abundance at the 2002 Natchez Powwow, scheduled for Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians.

This will be the 14th time the Grand Village has hosted the annual event.

"Most powwows are held at places like fairgrounds and stadiums," said Jim Barnett, director of the Grand Village. "This is the only one I know of that takes place on an actual mound site where Native Americans lived and danced."

There will be intertribal gourd dancing demonstrations at 1 and 7 p.m. on Saturday and at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Throughout the powwow there will be a grass dance contest open to all men.

Organizers expect over 100 participants. The first-place winner will take a \$1,000 prize and second through sixth places will win \$100 each. Contest winners will be announced at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The master of ceremonies will be Chuck Duncan, a Potawatomi tribal member from Meeker, Okla.

Other tribes represented include the Cheyenne, Comanche, and Navajo.

Powwow raffles have been coordinated by Boy Scout Troop 157 of Natchez.

Craft and food booths will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday and at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Available will be such traditional Native American crafts as silver and turquoise jewelry, hand-made clothing and moccasins, pottery, baskets, books, paintings, and bows and arrows.

Food vendors will offer traditional dishes such as fry bread and Indian tacos. Bring your lawn chairs. Tickets are \$1 per person.

The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians is a historic property administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

This National Historic

Landmark features a museum, a reconstructed Natchez Indian house, and three ceremonial mounds.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sundays 1:30 to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The Grand Village is located at 400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard, Natchez.

For more information call (601) 446-6502, or Powwow Committee Chairman Chuck Borum, (601) 442-0200 or e-mail at cborum@hotmail.com.

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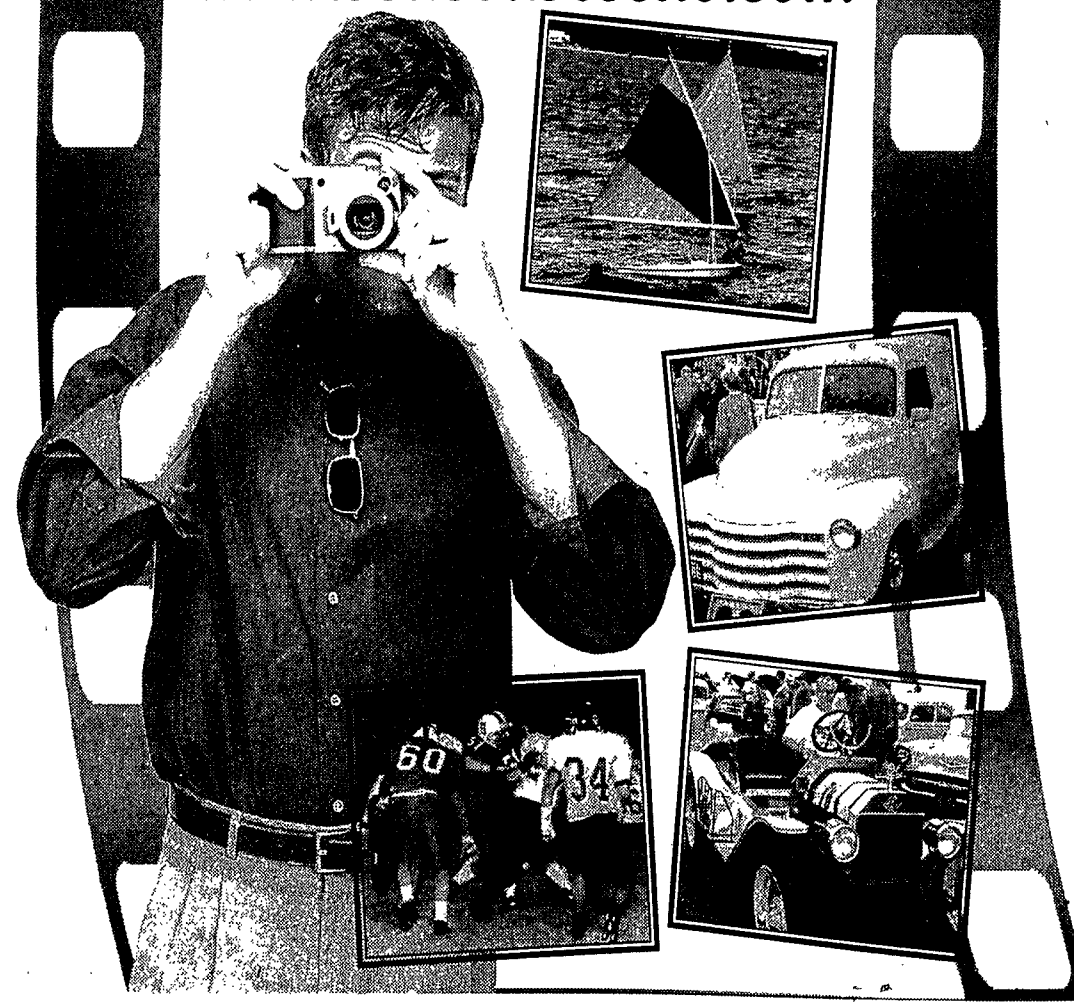
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Camp Stanislaus is accepting day campers

Camp Stanislaus is now accepting 24 day campers to each session.

Each camp session is three weeks long, Monday through Friday. Additional weekend days can be arranged. The cost for each three-week session is \$600. The fee is inclusive, and no additional spending money is needed. Campers can arrive between 7 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. for breakfast. Roll call for the first activity will

be at 7:45 a.m. Lunch will be served to the campers, and pick-up time is before dinner at 6 p.m. Campers will participate in all activities at camp which include water skiing, sailing, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, archery, rifles, and much more.

For more information, please contact Camp Stanislaus at 228-467-9057 ext. 284 or see the web page www.campstanislaus.com.

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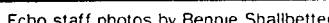
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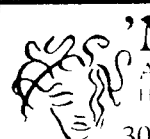
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JUDGMENT, IN MEASURE, IN WEIGHT OR
IN MEASURE." (LEV. 19:35)"A FALSE BALANCE IS AN ABOMINATION TO
THE LORD, BUT A JUST WEIGHT IS
HIS DELIGHT." (PROVERBS 11:1)

— AND WHAT DID JESUS SAY ?

FAIR MEASURE IS EXACT MEASURE, NO
MORE, NO LESS, BUT JUST AS JESUS TOLD
HIS FOLLOWERS TO GO EVEN A SECOND MILE
WITH AN ADVERSARY, SO DID HE TELL THEM TO
BE MORE THAN JUST FAIR—BE GENEROUS!"...GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, SHAKEN
TOGETHER, AND RUNNING OVER...FOR WITH
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AREA DEVOTIONAL & DIRECTORY PAGES

REFLECTIONS
ON LIFEBy Father Jerome
LeDoux, SVD

To your good health ...

This could happen to you or someone close to you. So listen up. A friend was about to leave the rectory recently when she complained about feeling tired, weak and lacking the usual energy she enjoyed.

"I don't know what's wrong. I took the B-12 and other supplements I was advised to take in the morning, but I still don't have any zip or strength. The only thing I can figure is that I am omitting one or two things I used to take."

"Are you sure the supplements you are taking are organic?" I inquired. "You know our bodies cannot absorb or process anything inorganic, but rather combine cholesterol with inorganic minerals and form plaque which plagues our entire circulatory system of capillaries, veins and arteries."

"I think," she hesitated. "Well, I'm not sure, but I will find out. I'll have to read labels and ask questions at the health food store."

At that point, I noticed she had the sniffles, as she often does, since she is pestered off and on by congested sinuses. Knowing that she has no ruptured or herniated disks or any other bone problems in her back, and having alleviated her sinuses in the past by giving her a simple back stretch, I suggested a good back stretch for her current problems.

I reminded her that our back is the master console of every single part of our body, operating on 200 volts of electricity, with the spinal cord as the main electrical line and individual nerves as secondary lines.

If the hollows of the vertebrae are not aligned, the spinal cord is pinched, impeding electrical flow to various corresponding parts of the body.

"What we need to do again is use the weight of your lower body to stretch and realign your vertebrae in order to regain full circulation and normalcy in your spinal chord and nerves. That should open your sinuses and bring energy and strength back to your body through a better electrical flow."

With a minimum of reluctance, she stood in place for the body lift from the armpits, and registered pleasant surprise when several of her vertebrae realigned themselves with a distinct popping noise.

As always, her sinuses opened immediately, followed quickly by the disappearance of her wan feeling of listlessness, weakness and ennui.

"I can't believe it! Even though you've done this several times, I still can't believe it. But I'm a convert now. It's incredible that all the energy and power outage I was experiencing just vanished within moments."

Take note, folks, that you can do everything right nutritionally and still find yourself in the situation of

stuffy sinuses, listlessness and weakness. No doubt, proper nutrition is the main building block of health and vitality. However, bone alignment and uninhibited nerves are just as necessary. Unfortunately, without personal inquiry into case history facts, medical doctors considered chiropractors quacks and enemies until just a couple of decades ago. This cheated literally untold millions of people out of a chance to be healed with alternative, often cheaper and more effective, medicine.

Fortunately, more and more doctors have studied chiropractic results and have subsequently begun to collaborate with them. This is a win-win turnabout for patients, whose well-being, after all, should always be uppermost in the minds of doctors, chiropractors and orthopedists.

Wonder of wonders, there are even cases nowadays where a person is both a medical doctor and a chiropractor, greatly enhancing the insights, ways and means to assist patients in treatment, recovery and healing.

Some medical doctors have taken the ultimate step of being converted to the incredible, fascinating, healing and life-giving world of vegetables, fruits, nuts and extra-virgin olive oil, where they are achieving eye-popping results, even in cancer cases, through fresh juicing and mostly raw eating.

Yes, food from the ground is beyond the shadow of a doubt the only good builder of our body cells, 300 million of which die each minute and must be replaced. All other non-plant foods often build cancer-prone wild cells. Food from the ground is, therefore, the best preventive to the inroads of disease and sickness, and the best medicine when our bodies have been invaded by germs or visited by some form of illness. The beauty of this is that we are in complete control of our food intake under all circumstances.

However, even if you are always faithful in pursuing the best nutrition, exercise and rest regimens, there will be times when your back/neck is afflicting you because it is out of line. God gave us one another to stretch our backs. If you need further help, seek out a chiropractor or orthopedist.

When there is no one available to help you, you can lie on your back on a rug and stretch and maneuver your arms, legs, upper back and neck, and your lower back until you ease the vertebrae back to where they belong.

God created our magnificent bodies as the prime wonders of the universe.

Beginning with our tiny 100 trillion cells, each building block is a marvel to contemplate, to study in detail, to maintain, to use and to perfect.

St. Ann-St. John Church News

Father John Kelly, pastor,
228-467-4746

Mass Schedule:
St. Ann Catholic Church, Lower Bay Road, Saturday Vigil Mass, 5 p.m.

Sunday masses: St. John Catholic Church, Lakeshore Road, Mass at 8 a.m.; St. Ann, 10:30 a.m.
Weekday masses (St. Ann): Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Visitors are welcome.

Lenten Schedule
Each Wednesday during Lent Mass and Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m.

During Lent, Mass will be celebrated in church instead of the chapel.

Wednesdays, Father Jack will conduct Bible Study class in the

Education Building immediately following Mass and Stations of the Cross. Class will continue each Wednesday during Lent.

All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.

Confirmation retreat is April 20, 9:30-1 p.m. at St. Ann Church.

March 17: Baptism during the 10:30 a.m. Mass

March 24: Passion - Palm Sunday

March 27: Confessions, 7 p.m.

March 28: Holy Thursday, Mass of Our Lord's Supper, St. John, 7 p.m.

March 29: Way of the Cross, St. John, 3 p.m.; St. Ann, 7 p.m.

Commemoration of Our Lord's Passion and Death

March 30: Easter Vigil 7 p.m., St. Ann

March 31: Masses, St. John 8 and 9:15 a.m., St. Ann 10:30 a.m.

Scripture says . . .

By Ed Young

A profound statement

One night in the town where Jesus was staying, He had a night caller come to Him and say, "Lord you must be from God, for you are able to do wonderful miracles."

Jesus didn't answer his question, instead Jesus made a very profound statement. He told this teacher of the Jews, "You must be born again or you will not enter the Kingdom of God."

This night caller, whose name is Nicodemus, a well-known teacher of Jewish law, was astounded. Nicodemus reasoning said, "How can I be born again when I am old? How can I enter a second time into my mother's womb?"

Jesus answered, "Truly I say to you, except a man be born of water

and of the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Jesus continued explaining, "For that which is of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit."

Dear Reader, this is not easily understood. This profound statement comes right out of the Throne of God. You cannot reason this out.

Nicodemus, who was learned in the Old Testament, did not know this to be so.

So how can one experience being born again? Born in the spirit so as to enter the kingdom of God.

Well, since Jesus made this profound statement, ask Him to give you this born-again birth - and He will. (John 3:1-9).

St. Joseph Catholic Church
in Pearlinton March events

Mass Schedule:

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Monday-Saturday: Rosary at 8 a.m. followed by Mass

Sacrament of Penance: Before all masses or by appointment

St. Joseph Devotion: Every Wednesday before Mass

Adult education classes: Every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Friday, 2-7 p.m.

Sacred Heart Devotion: Every Friday before morning Mass

Choir: Those interested in joining, contact Ann Seale or Yvonne Viguerie.

Prayers for the sick: Every Wednesday after morning Mass

Way of the Cross: Every Friday in Lent at 6:30 p.m. followed by Benediction

St. Joseph Altar: Sunday, March 17 after Mass there will be a potluck meatless dinner. Everybody is asked to bring a dish. Lynne and

John Pavolvich will again set up the St. Joseph Altar. Volunteers are needed and also fresh flowers and small religious articles and statues.

Palm Sunday: March 24 begins Holy Week. Blessings of the Palms will take place at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Holy Week schedule: Monday-Wednesday: Rosary at 8 a.m. followed by Mass.

Holy Thursday: Mass at 7 p.m.

Transfer of the Holy Eucharist to the side-altar with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 a.m. (No morning Mass)

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion service and Veneration of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday: Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by Easter egg hunt for the children.

Community Baptist hosts revival

Community Baptist Church, 9208 Edwin Ladner Road in Pass Christian will have revivals Sunday, March 17, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Monday, March 18 to Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

Preaching will be Tommy Mitchell, director of Gulf Coast Association with music by Dionne

Williams, Church Development, Gulf Coast Association.

The church is located two miles north of I-10 on Kiln-DeLisle Road at the corner of Edwin Ladner Road. For information, call Donald Sheldon, pastor at 601-798-6221 or Richard Chesbro, associate pastor at 228-831-1422.

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First place winners in Competency Based and Team Events are, front row from left, Lisa Page, Felicity Ross, Jessica Cuevas and Margie Ticer; back row, Lainey Perrot, Kurt Graves, Byron Taylor and Miguel Graves.



Second place winners in Team Events are, from left, Nike Grieves, Karen Hancock, Ashley Pollion and Chelsea Hawkins.

Bay High DECA attends district competition at PRCC

Bay High DECA attended the DECA District Career Development Conference Jan. 24, 2002 at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville. It was the first conference for the 2001-2002 competitive season.

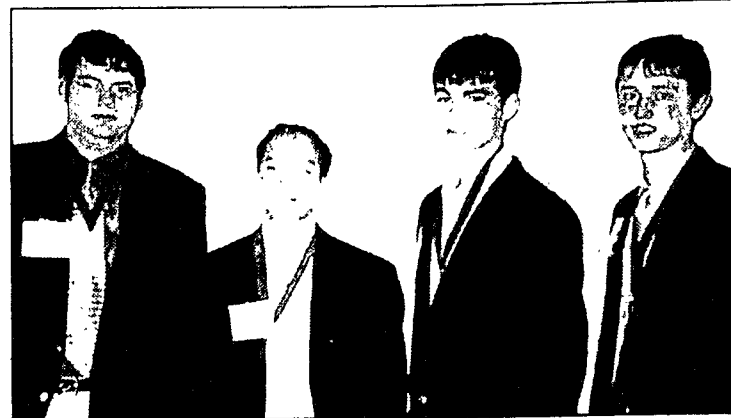
The competitors in each event have to take a written test and participate in an oral role-play with a judge. The test and role-play scores are combined.

Thirty-one DECA members and their advisors represented the Bay-Waveland School District.

Members representing Marketing DECA were Joseph Graves, Jarrod Bourgeois, Tan Ly, Tristan Egloff, Miguel Graves, Ben Bourgeois, Matt Barbier, Eric Kinard, Kurt Graves, Byron Taylor, Lacey Irias, Nike Grieves, Sheena Johnson and Jenny Patterson.

Also, Tara Elmore, Kendall Schindler, Lindsay Richardson, Paige Ladner, Heather Ladner, Josh Hearty, Felicity Ross, Margie Ticer, Karen Hancock, Jake Pearce, Sarah Jeanfreau, Jessica Cuevas, Lisa Page, Lainey Perrot, and advisor Lady Anne Bruce.

Members attending from the Cooperative Education Chapter included Ashley Pollion, Chelsea Hawkins, Kirsten Huber, and advisor



Second place winners in Quiz Bowl are, from left, Matt Barbier, Tan Ly, Jarrod Bourgeois and Ben Bourgeois.



Third and fourth place winners in Competency Based and Team Events include, front from left, Heather Ladner, Tristan Egloff and Tara Elmore; back row, Eric Kinard, Kendall Schindler, Kirsten Huber, Sheena Johnson and Lacey Irias.

Harold Demetz.

Bay High DECA returned home with 27 winners, and Joseph Graves qualified to run for Mississippi DECA president.

These students will advance to the State

Conference in Biloxi, March 7-9.

Students who qualify at the state level will advance to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Salt Lake City in April.

BUSINESS review

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Our community is constantly growing which means that potential customers are moving into the market area all the time. Advertising gives these newcomers a reason to visit your store.

Most businesses budget for their advertising expenses just as they do for other necessities such as rent, phones, etc. Smart business people realize that advertising is imperative to keep their business growing.

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If you're looking for the best advertising value for your money, then you should contact the advertising department at The Sea Coast Echo. One of our advertising representatives will be happy to discuss the many advertising options offered by The Sea Coast Echo. For more information you may call 467-5474, Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm, or stop by our office at 124 Court Street, Bay St. Louis.

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- 24 Auctions
- 25 Flea Markets
- 30 Lost & Found
- 34 Personals
- 36 Special Notices

BUSINESS & SERVICES

- 46 Home Improvement
- 53 Schools & Instruction
- 56 Services Offered
- 58 Lawn & Garden

EMPLOYMENT

- 63 Business Opportunities
- 66 Child Care
- 70 Employment
- 73 Help Wanted
- 76 Situation/Job Wanted

MERCHANDISE

- 81 Appliances
- 82 Antiques, Collectibles
- 83 Items For Sale
- 84 Furniture
- 85 Building Materials
- 86 Business Equipment
- 88 Tools, Machinery
- 90 Pets
- 91 Live Stock
- 93 Yard Sales
- 96 Wanted To Buy

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127 RV Sites

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Customs & traditions

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

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